



Games for the extreme and tame

Page 15



Follow to his final footstep

Pages 20-21

Butterfly goes ballet

Madame Butterfly, one of the most performed operas by Giacomo Puccini, has made the leap from song to dance. David Nixon, artistic director of Northern Ballet Theater in Leeds, England, has ported the classic piece to showcase wife Yoko Ichino's grace and elegance.

Page 8

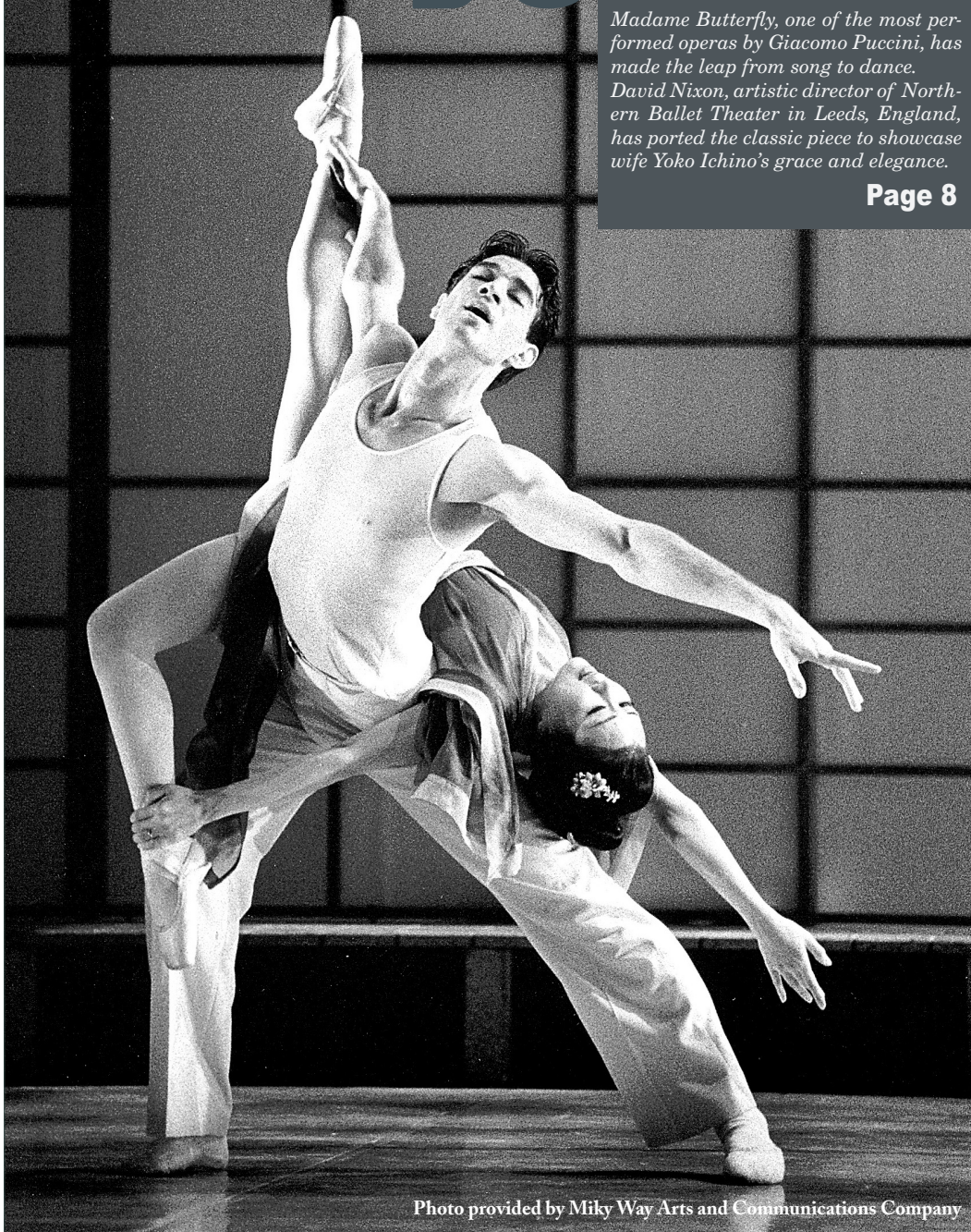


Photo provided by Miky Way Arts and Communications Company

Falling telegraph pole kills pedestrian

By Huang Daohen

A telephone pole near the east side of Changhong Bridge on Third Ring Road broke suddenly yesterday, killing one and injuring two in its fall.

Three women passed by the pole on bicycle as it fell. Witnesses at the scene suggested the pole may have given way in the face of the strong winds which blew through the capital.

An ambulance arrived on the scene immediately and took the three injured people to the nearby Armed Police General and Chaoyang hospitals.

One of the women, reportedly a college student, died shortly after rescue. The other two, one a French citizen, were preliminarily diagnosed with skull fractures and are still hospitalized.

The cause of the incident remains unknown, and as of press time, Chaoyang police are still investigating.



Photo by Zuma Cui

好运北京
GOOD LUCK
Pre-Games
sports special
The 'Good Luck
Beijing' series

Pages 10-11

First-aid means first come, first served?

Page 7

Better doctors and cheaper prices from local hospitals

Page 9

Door to a demented world

Page 14

Beijing uproots local drug-trafficking black markets

Beijing police eradicated three major drug trafficking underground markets during the last half year to improve social order in the capital, a public security official said on Wednesday.

In a campaign dubbed "wind and thunder," launched in May, police forces raided 900 houses and locations in Xuanwu, Fengtai and Haidian districts, seizing 630

drug smugglers involved in some 500 cases, Che Kejian, an officer with the drug control department of Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau, said.

Che said the detainees were found carrying or trading small amounts of drugs, but he did not name the types of the drugs or how much was confiscated in the campaign.

More than 20,000 square meters of constructions involved in drug trafficking were dismantled in the move, and authorities held 30 lectures to inform the public about drug control during the six-month period, he said.

The Beijing police inspected eight areas across the city, cracking down upon minor drug-related activities.

The campaign is part of the city's efforts to create a drug-free environment for the upcoming Olympics Games next year.

Since the beginning of this year, 100 kilograms of various drugs have been confiscated, and more than 1,000 suspects have been captured for being involved in drug-related activities, Che said.

(Xinhua)

Tiger photo confirmed a fake

By Huang Daohen

The debate over the authenticity of the South China tiger photo has ended, after expert photographers concluded that the photos of the extinct South China tiger were total fakes.

A digital-image appraisal center operated by the China Photographers' Society released its results last Sunday after a team of experts assessed 40 photographs provided by 163.com, a Chinese Internet company.

After carrying out several experiments on the photos, experts proved the tiger in all photos had the exact same posture, which violates the basic laws of wildlife photography.

Hu Huijian, a zoologist and expert on the South China tiger, gave a detailed demonstration on the falseness of the tiger in the photos. Its eyeballs remained white, which, were it real, would glisten like a bulb under a flashlight, and there was no reflected liquid on its eyes or lips.

The Huaxia Evidence Identification Centre, incorporating a team of scientists including detective Li Changyu, analyzed the photos within their respective expertise and reached a consensus that the tiger in the photos is the same as the one in a lunar new year painting.

A reporter from the *Beijing Times* phoned Zhou Zhenglong, who claimed to have spotted the tiger. Zhou continued to insist the tiger was real. "I spent more than one month taking the photos. I'm not telling a lie. Their words mean nothing until they visit the site," he said.

Officials have refused to comment on the event. Speaking at a press conference on Tuesday, State Forestry Administration spokesman Cao Qingyao reserved judgment on the authenticity of the controversial pictures, saying more concrete evidence was needed and validation of the pictures is not the administration's duty.

Cao said an expert panel, which was dispatched to Zhenping County last month, would wait until the first snowfall to carry out a field investigation.

"When it snows, it will be easier to locate the tigers, if there are any, because tigers have a tawny coat and will have to come out to hunt for food," Cao said, "We will announce the investigation results to the public in time," he said.



The Confucian Temple is ready

Renovations on the 700-year-old Confucian Temple at the Guozijian Street in Dongcheng District drew to a close yesterday. The historic site will be ready to receive visitors in the first half of next year.

Xinhua Photo

Nature reserves expanded for biodiversity

By Huang Daohen

The nation will expand its biodiversity protection and more nature reserves will be established to preserve the country's rich natural resources, a senior forest official said Tuesday.

"By 2020, the SFA will designate 2,300 areas specially to protect forests, wild animals and other natural resources," Zhu Lieke, deputy director of the State Forestry Administration (SFA), told a press conference at the State Council Information Office on Tuesday.

The reserves will cover a combined area of 140 million hectares, or 14.5 percent of the mainland's total land area, and will protect 95 percent of the country's plant types and wild animal species at risk, Zhu said.

There will be more than 600 wetland nature reserves by 2020, protecting 60 percent of the country's natural wetlands, he said.

In the past 58 years, the government has planted 53.3 million hectares of forests, more than any other country in the world, with forest coverage rate rising from 8.6 percent to 18.2 percent, Zhu said.

The country also aims to raise forest coverage to 20 percent by 2010, 23 percent by 2020 and 26 percent by 2050, the minister said.

The SFA figures show that there are currently 1,740 nature reserves, or 12.6 percent of the country's total land area.

Referring to the controversial bear bile farms, Zhu said the government has closed more than 400 such farms across the country as it steps up efforts to protect animal rights.

The number of these farms, which raise the animals to extract their bile for medicine, has decreased to 68 from over 480 in the 1990s, Zhu said.

Zhu pointed out that new surgical technology has been adopted to reduce the pain felt by the bears during bile extraction, as well as confining the bears to an iron cage or jacket.

The government has launched a labeling system for breeding wild animals, building up files for them to ensure proper treatment of the animals, he said.

Olympic tickets to launch new stage sale next week

By Gan Tian

The Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG) said last Friday, that the second stage of Olympic tickets will be in the form of a lottery draw with a similar process as the first stage.

There will be no fewer than 1.8 million tickets available for the citizens, Zhu Yan, the new director of the ticketing center of BOCOG, said.

This time, each person is allowed to complete only one ticket application form, but can apply for two competition sessions, with no more than four tickets for each session, which means a person can request a maximum of eight tickets.

At the end of last month, overwhelming demand for the tickets caused trouble and BOCOG stopped their sale. A first-come-first-served policy was adopted, but later caused inconvenience and chaos, as over 43,000 tickets were sold during the first two hours and the system broke down.

The first stage sold out more than 1.59 million tickets, including tickets for opening and closing ceremonies starting from April. The second stage of tickets selling will go back to the lottery draw.

"We hope people will apply for the tickets at different times to avoid overcrowding the system on the Internet or in the banks, as everyone has a chance as long as they apply within the time period," Zhu told the press. He also mentioned that the tickets for the disabled and those accompanying them would be sold during the third stage of sales next year because the number of "no-barrier seats" in Olympic venues is still being counted.

Those interested in purchasing tickets can visit tickets.beijing2008.cn or Bank of China branches, which will be able to book tickets starting from the last Monday of this month.

Brief news

2,800 unqualified food producers

The government shut down 2,800 food factories in rural areas in the first 10 months of the year for producing fake and substandard products, the State Administration for Industry and Commerce, the country's market watchdog, announced this week.

Man dies of bird flu

A 24-year-old man, surname Lu, died of bird flu on Sunday in Jiangsu Province, bringing the country's bird flu death toll since 2003 to 17, the provincial health authority reported this week.

Plunge in disaster death toll

Natural disasters across the country including drought, floods, landslides, cold weather and heavy snows, killed 11 last month, drastically down from the average of 194 recorded in the first nine months, a spokesman for the Ministry of Civil Affairs said this week.

(By Jiang Xubo)

Family-run hospital teams with drug lords

By Jiang Xubo

Shenyang police arrested a private hospital director, along with key staff members, who police said offered prescribed drugs to drug dealers.

Boren Hospital in Faku County, Liaoning Province, prescribed 27,000 tablets of Dihydroetorphine Hydrochloride this year, a painkiller for cancer patients which can also be used to produce morphine and Pethidine. Some of the drug tablets were prescribed with forged medical records before being shipped to Henan Province drug lords for profit.

Annual consumption of the drug in the county's public hospitals stood at 200 tablets, the police said.

Police found more than 1,000 drug tablets in the private hospital and sets of forged medical records.

The hospitals obtained the drug at 4 yuan per tablet and sold them to drug lords at 80 to 120 yuan per tablet. By the time the tablets were traded again in nearby Shanxi Province, the price was 130 to 180 yuan per tablet.

The police believe the drugs circulated in five nearby provinces including Shandong, Henan

and Jilin. The hospital made as much as 1.5 million yuan from the trade this year, police said.

Police arrested 34-year Wang Yong, the director, and Ji Hongbin, 20, a dealer from Henan Province, in mid-September following a two-week investigation after receiving an anonymous tip.

The director confessed that he began to work with drug dealers early this year after he found dealers were recruiting cancer patients to buy the drug, police said.

The hospital, established in 2002, had a medical staff of 60, with Wang Xikui, the director's

father, as the license holder and 60-year-old Xu Chengmao, the director's mother, in charge of purchasing hospital medicine.

As many as several dozen cancer patients from Henan Province flocked to the hospital since last year, always eager to purchase more painkillers. Doctors discovered patients were selling the drugs to drug lords who, in some cases, came with the patient to sign him in.

When the director learned the patients were hired by dealers for 200 yuan per day, in addition to the dealers footing patients'

medical bills, all in exchange for the pills, he went to his mother instead of the police.

"He said, 'Why the mess? We could save the trouble and cut out the middle man,'" his mother said.

Wang began to prescribe large doses of drugs for the patients. He and his mother began to recruit cancer patients on their own, and began to forge medical records in June to acquire more drugs, police said.

The police are continuing their investigation, and hope to track down other suspects and the drugs already in circulation.

Luxurious villa dismantled for unapproved addition

By Huang Daohen

A five-million-yuan private villa in Fengtai district was torn down Tuesday for having been illegally constructed, the Fengtai monitoring and management agency said.

Local authorities said the villa, covering more than 1,000 square meters in the International Garden Community, was illegally constructed because it never got permission from the planning department. The three-day demolition project cost 200,000 yuan, the *Beijing News* reported.

The owner of the villa, Wang Jun (pseudonym), according to Alex Liu, his neighbor, is a middle-aged man from Shanxi Province and with a disabled leg. Wang bought the two villas in 2005.

Wang began reconstruction on the villa to install an elevator for convenience with the developer's verbal agreement.

Wang's renovations were completed just a few days ago, and he invested 15 million yuan in the project from purchase to reconstruction, Liu said.

During the construction period, none of the housing developer or related government departments came forward to stop the construction, but only to dismantle it at its end, Liu said. "It is a waste of human labor, material and financial resources. The villa owner should not be made to bear full responsibility for this," Liu said.

Beijing Today's calls to Wang went unanswered.

Wang's villa was not the only one removed. To date, 50 villas in the community have been tagged for removal, and owners are required to dismantle illegal construction within 20 days. The owners have refused to take initiative.

Beijing News reported that many owners in the community have made some conversion to their frontage, garages and balconies.

Meng Xiansheng, a lawyer at the Renhe legal affairs agency, said current property law enables housing owners to make changes and reconstructions, but they must get any changes approved with authorities in advance.

Lion dances on campus



Students in Tianjin University are receiving instructions on traditional lion dance yesterday. As many as over 60 students attended the course since the university introduced traditional lion and dragon dance into its classrooms.

CFP Photo

Spoiled monkeys in Guizhou zoo turned against visitors

By Jiang Xubo

As many as 500 wild macaque roaming in a Guizhou Province zoo are injuring an increasing number of visitors, and zoo efforts to curb the monkey population have been met with hostility from local animal lovers, Xinhua reported.

The zoo introduced a dozen macaques in the 1980s. The macaque population soared to 500 during the past 20 years to become the zoo's major attraction. Instead of being shut in cages, the monkeys walk freely within the 300-hectare zoo, allowing visitors to play with them.

The animals, however, remain very dangerous.

"The macaque have scratched over 1,140 visitors this year, and the zoo has paid as much as several hundred-thousand yuan in compensation," Bi Jianming, director of the administration office of the Qianling Zoo, Guiyang, Guizhou Province, said.

Only 250 people were injured in 2004, but the number climbed to 550 in 2005 and to 700 last year, the zoo reported.

"Most of the attacks are not unprovoked. The macaques attack people they view as having invaded their domain," Xie Jiaye, a professor from the local Guizhou Normal University, said.

Human beings are not the only ones attacked in the macaque expansion efforts.

"Natural food for the monkeys is available for only five months every year, and people have to feed them the other seven months," Xie said, "The zoo environment can support, at most, 150 monkeys. But the monkey population is growing at a rate of 50 monkeys per year."

Hungry monkeys have turned to grass and trees.

"The zoo was home to dozens of wild birds. But the number of the birds is decreasing as the mon-

keys damage the foliage. Some of the birds have even ceased to build nests here," Ni Zeyang, vice director of the zoo's administration office, said, "They pose a great threat to the environment."

The zoo's plan to export unruly monkeys to other zoos and parks in August was canceled due to a local NGO's opposition after members said the target zoos had an inferior habitat to the current one.

"The macaque belongs to the nation and all people. The zoo cannot decide their lives on its own," Zhou Zeqi, chairman of the Guiyang Qianlingshan Macaque Protection Committee, said.

"The monkeys have become a real problem," Bi Jianming, from the zoo's administration office, said, "The zoo can only support a limited number of monkeys. We must send some away and adopt stricter birth control methods. That is the only way to ensure that visitors and monkeys get along well."

Big ticket holder collects his prize

By Han Manman

China's biggest jackpot winner collected his winnings Monday at the Gansu Welfare Lottery Center. The center forced reporters away to protect the winner's privacy.

Interest in the Chinese lottery was rejuvenated, November 27, when a citizen in Jiayuguan, Gansu Province, won 102 million yuan, a record high lottery prize for a single buyer in China.

The winner purchased 20 tickets at 2 yuan each, all with the same numbers. The jackpot was worth more than 5 million yuan, and the person won it 20 times.

The winner said he would donate 1 million yuan to needy people and invest the rest in companies.

To help him evade the press, the center opened a "green channel" for the winner and invited the media to have a lunch when he came in on Monday at noon.

He is not the country's first big prize winner. A lottery buyer in Daqing, Heilongjiang Province, won 11 million yuan, and another person in Heilongjiang Province won 65 million yuan, the highest in history prior to Monday's lottery.

While lottery tickets give common people a chance to get rich overnight, tickets also have led to death, fraud and other malpractice.

This Monday, a 39-year-old man from Chongqing municipality claimed to have won 1 billion yuan in the drawing. He threw his two sons out the window of their eight-floor apartment and jumped out the window after them. The man and one of his sons died on impact. The other son was seriously injured.

Last month, a 36-year-old lottery vendor from Anshan, Heilongjiang Province, was jailed for life for taking advantage of a flaw in the Welfare Lottery's "3D" system to cash 28 million yuan worth of lottery tickets.

Experts warn that the lottery is entertainment and hope citizens can be reasonable when playing.

The government is expected to issue its first regulation on the lottery industry next year to stamp out fraud, which has been on the rise since the first lottery opened two decades ago, Xinhua reported.

A More Beautiful You



Bioscor International is a global network of aesthetic medical clinics that specializes in excellent customer service. Bioscor International has more

than 10 years of experience in providing today's latest medically and clinically proven aesthetic solutions for clients, and a more beautiful you.

Bioscor has since expanded to 20 clinics across the Asia-Pacific and North American regions. Bioscor has earned a world-wide reputation in cosmetic medicine. Bioscor established its Shanghai

clinic in 2003 and a Beijing clinic in 2005, now newly renovated. The two clinics strive to meet all its clients' cosmetic needs. Western surgeons, the latest techniques and the most advanced medications are continually introduced. Highly skilled, experienced, English-speaking Chinese doctors and other professionals are at your service, and provide world

class care to the international community.

Contact:

RM1008, E-Tower (opposite Kerry Center)
No.12 GuangHua Lu, Chao Yang District, Beijing, China 100020
Tel : 010-6503 5706 / 5707
Email: beijing@bioscor.com.cn
Web: www.bioscor.com.cn

Pixel Laser Skin Resurfacing: NEW AT BIOSCOR BEIJING!

The PIXEL Skin Resurfacing Laser is suitable for:

Acne Scarring & Enlarged pores
Pigmentation (sunspots & melasma)
Sun Damaged Skin
Wrinkles & Sagging Skin
Uneven Skin Tone

Advantages:

Improves skin texture & firmness
Safe & effective treatment for face, neck, chest, arms & hands
Little or no discomfort
No or minimal downtime
Long-term results

Dramatic Results In Little Time

We all age, yet none of us want our skin to show the signs of ageing. For centuries, people have sought ways of safely and effectively restoring smooth, glowing skin.

Now it is possible.

Pixel skin resurfacing improves skin texture and tone, smoothes wrinkles, and diminishes brown spots. In short, this procedure erases those features that add years to our appearance, restoring youthful vitality.

Best of all, pixel skin resurfacing does all this with minimal pain and minimal downtime, providing the effective, dramatic results of ablative resurfacing treatments without its prolonged healing period. This procedure combines the best of both worlds. Pixel skin resurfacing restores skin to its fresh, healthy state, generally allowing patients to resume their normal routine almost immediately.

How Does It Work?

Pixel skin resurfacing is based on the principle of micro thermal treatment zones. The laser pulses create tiny ablative zones, removing the epidermis and upper dermis. The treatment then triggers the body's natural healing process, stimulating the growth of new, healthy skin tissue.

The procedure treats the small zones of skin, leaving surrounding tissue untouched and intact. These large unaffected areas act as a reservoir for more effective and rapid tissue healing and collagen production. The bottom line: new, healthier, smoother tissue in place of skin imperfections.

What To Expect?

Your physician will determine the ideal treatment plan for your needs. Generally, treatment involves two to four sessions, at four-week intervals. Right after treatment you may feel a light tingling sensation. You may experience slight swelling for a day or two. As new skin replaces dead tissue, your skin will flake, a sign that healing is underway. Your skin will look better immediately, and will steadily improve over the next few months.

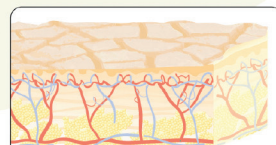


Does It Hurt?

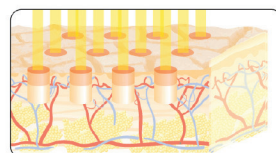
Far more comfortable than conventional laser skin resurfacing, Pixel skin resurfacing is experienced by most patients as a comfortable sensation.

Who Can Be Treated And On What Parts Of The Body?

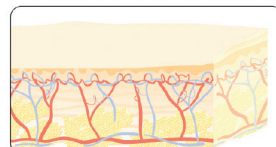
Pixel skin resurfacing can be used on patients of most skin types anywhere on the body. Since the procedure spares healthy tissue, it can be performed on delicate skin areas, such as the face, neck, chest and hands.



Before Treatment



During Pixel Skin Resurfacing



After Treatment

Before



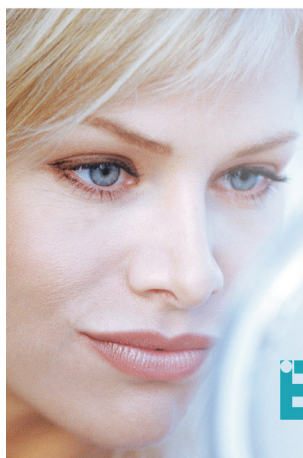
After



Before



After



A More Beautiful You

The latest trends in Cosmetic Medicine

A free seminar with talks by special guest doctors from overseas.

- Learn about the latest treatments and products available in Cosmetic Medicine.
- Find out which treatment/procedure is best for you.
- Speak personally with our guest doctors.

Dynasty Garden Clubhouse | 15th December 2007 | 11 am



Bioscor International
Hair Regrowth & Cosmetic Medicine

RSVP your attendance at:
Email: beijing@bioscor.com.cn
Web: www.bioscor.com.cn

65035707

GUEST SPEAKER



Dr David Lam
Cosmetic Physician
M.B. B.S. (Sydney)
1st Class Honours
Specialises in:
• Smartlipo/Ultrashape
• Botox/Dermal Fillers
• Threadlifts
• Laser/IPL Therapy

Juvenile crime is on the rise

(AFP) – The number of juvenile criminals in China has more than doubled over the past decade, media reported Wednesday, citing experts who blamed broken homes, increasing Internet access and a decline in social values for spurring

youth delinquency.

"Offenders' average ages have become younger, and they are committing new types of crime and forming larger gangs," Liu Guiming, deputy secretary general of the Chinese Society of Juvenile Delinquency, said,

according to the China Daily.

"They even commit crimes without specific motives, often without thought," he said.

The types of crimes committed by juveniles — defined in China as 14 to 18 years old — ranged from robbery to rape, the

paper reported.

Statistics show that the number of juvenile criminals increased from 33,000 in 1998 to 80,000 this year, while two-thirds of the 4 million criminal cases handled annually by Chinese courts involved minors.

Expert comment

Broken families seem to be the main factor behind the explosion in youth delinquency, Shang Xiuyun, a Beijing judge specializing in juvenile crime from the Beijing's Haidian District Court, said.

A major cause of concern is the growing number of migrant workers who leave their rural homes to seek work in the cities.

China now has a mobile population of about 150 million migrant workers, often leaving their children in the care of relatives or friends.

The majority of juvenile crime stems from the Internet, ranging from fraud to finance online gaming addictions, to complex scams involving the theft of virtual property, according to the municipal public security bureau.

"With major social transformations under way, children nowadays, who are usually single children, endure more pressure and pain, even though they are called 'emperors' and 'empresses' of the families, compared with when there were several children in each family in the past," Shang said.

(Agencies)

Broadway a hit with theater goers



The Broadway musical comedy "42nd Street," which opens Tuesday in Tianjin to end its China tour, is striking a chord among Chinese audiences with its tale of smart-time characters finding fame and fortune in the big city.

IC Photo

China population to reach 1.5 billion by 2033

(Reuters) – The population of China, already the world's most populous country will grow to 1.5 billion people by 2033, with birth rates set to soar over the next five years, media said on Tuesday.

China's population, now 1.3 billion, would reach 1.45 to 1.46 billion by 2020, the *Beijing News* reported.

China says its policies have prevented several hundred million births and boosted prosperity, but experts have warned of a looming social time-bomb from an aging population and widening gender disparity stemming.

China says lunar image authentic

(AP) – China's space program has defended a photo of the moon's surface taken by its lunar probe as authentic, dismissing critics who suggested it had been copied from a similar image captured by a US orbiter.

China last week presented the first picture taken by its Chang'e I lunar probe at a gala ceremony. However, critics posting on Chinese-language Internet sites questioned the image's authenticity.

Lunar program chief scientist Ouyang Ziyuan insisted the Chinese image was real. "Because China and the US took the images in the same region, it's natural the two pictures look alike."

expat show

April 4-5 & 6th 2008
China World Trade Center

Beijing

10,000 Visitors 150 Exhibitors

Activities

Community Blood Drive
Association Area
Huge prize draw
Kid playground
Kindergarten...

Exhibition

Real-Estate
Education
Insurance
Life-Style
Finance
Health
Travel...

www.expatshowbeijing.com

info@weacn.com

Tightened monetary policy for 2008

The nation will shift its stance on monetary policy from "prudent" to "tight" next year, when the key priorities of the government will be to prevent the economy from overheating and to curb inflation, the official Xinhua news agency reported following the 2007 Central Economic Work Conference.

Curb inflation

The conference made it a priority for 2008 to prevent overheating and curb inflation.

China's economy is expected to expand 11.5 percent this year, fueled mainly by investment spending, Xinhua reported.

It will be the fifth consecutive year of double-digit growth, and 2008 is widely expected to see yet another year of growth in excess of

10 percent.

Growth is not seen to be as worrisome as inflation, which affects the personal fortunes of every single family in China – and thus a direct impact on public support for the government.

China expects increases in consumer prices to shoot to a 10-year high of 4.5 to 4.6 percent this year, due mainly to soaring food prices, state media said last week.

"The theme of 2008 is preventing overheating and inflation. Issues related to prices are most crucial for now," Wang Tao, a Beijing-based economist with Bank of America, said.

Bank lending control

One of the main underlying drivers of the speedy growth in China

is an economy awash with liquidity, caused by a massive trade surplus.

The liquidity becomes a problem when banks lend money to people who use the money for speculative investments such as stocks or real estate. A default on loans could lead to a debt crisis.

"China will strictly control the volume and pace of loans, so as to better regulate domestic demand," Xinhua reported, citing the conference.

China is to extend a clampdown on new bank lending into next year.

In the first 10 months of this year, before a crackdown on new loan growth was implemented, domestic and foreign banks in China had extended 3.5 trillion yuan (US \$474

billion) in new loans.

The move would mean that in percentage terms, new bank loans in China would grow by around 13 percent next year, down from the 15 percent allowed in recent years, Chen Xingdong, chief China economist at BNP Paribas, said.

Rate hike

China's stock market has weakened in recent sessions, but the benchmark index remains up nearly 90 percent this year.

Decisions made by the Economic Work Conference set the outer limits of policies available to China's huge bureaucracy in the year ahead. Detailed measures are expected to emerge later.

Among concrete steps the government may undertake, the most

likely is a new series of interest rate hikes, on top of the five that have taken place since early 2007, analysts said.

"Rate hikes may change the situation we have now with negative real interest rates," Zhang Ming, a Beijing-based economist with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said.

"That in turn will go some way towards coping with the trend of people taking money from their savings accounts and putting it in stocks and real estate."

The People's Bank of China, the central bank, immediately signaled its willingness to turn the broad outlines set by the conference into concrete policy.

(Agencies)

Deutsche Bank opens flagship branch in China

By Gan Tian

Deutsche Bank announced the official launch of the Beijing Huamao Sub-Branch, its flagship branch in China, at the beginning of this month.

The Huamao Sub-branch is located on the ground floor of the Deutsche Bank Tower at China Central Place in the

heart of Beijing's Central Business District. The new branch is tasked with providing leading financial services to demanding Chinese customers.

Deutsche Bank Huamao sub-branch provides clients one-stop financial solutions including Private Banking, Business Banking and Personal Loan.

Trojan kicks off charity climbathon

By Huang Daohen

Trojan, the condom brand produced by the Church & Dwight company, kicked off a unique charity climbathon event last Sunday at the foot of the Fragrant Hills, calling on everyone to join hands to care for women and combat HIV/AIDS together.

Hundreds of volunteers from

key Beijing universities attended the event.

Trojan donated money and condoms worth 260,000 yuan to the China Women's Development Foundation, which will be used in the joint care for the project, promoting HIV/AIDS knowledge and correct condom usage nationwide

Send us your discounts & offers.

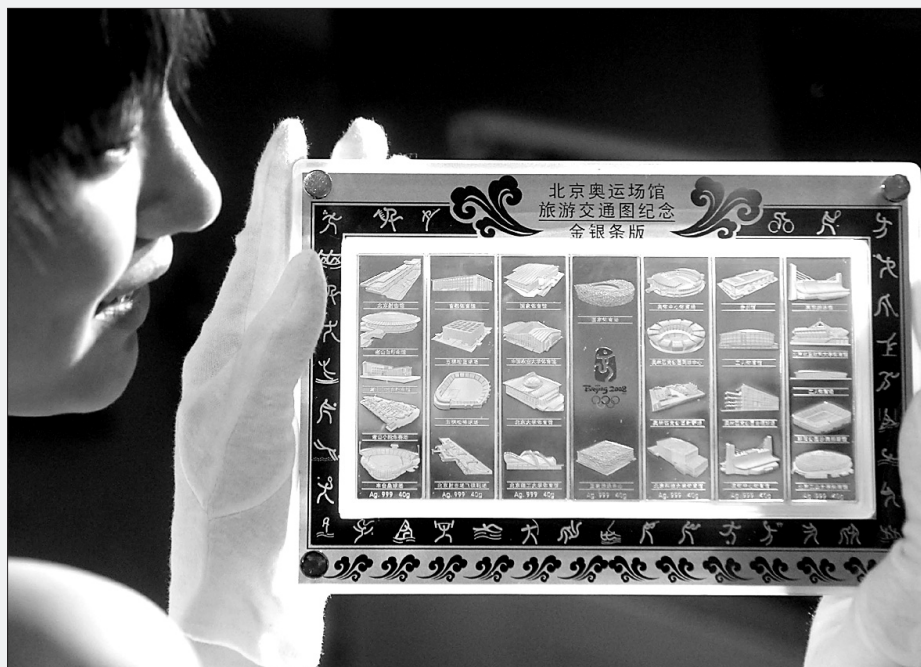
Email us: bjtoday@ynet.com or call: 6590 2626

ADVERTISE IN **BEIJING TODAY**

PLACE YOUR ADVERT NOW AND GET INSTANT RESULTS!

Call: Jian Zhong 139 0135 4788, Xiao'ang 136 0138 7065

Mini venues fit to mint



The organizing committee of the Beijing Olympic Games launched Wednesday its first run of golden and silver miniatures of the Beijing Olympic stadiums.

The special golden edition has seven miniatures and limited run of 200 sets.

Xinhua Photo

Center stage

Center stage

CENTER STAGE

洋眼探班 台前幕后连连看

Show the art of the week
explore the backstage

Pay 104 RMB for 12 months of
订阅全年 BEIJING TODAY

即可获赠派特森教育咨询有限公司提供的价值1380元的英语课程学员卡, 享受2天免费的英语授课, 其中包括2-4节外教课程

订阅: 010-6590 2626, 6590 2526
btsubscription@ynet.com
bjtoday.ynet.com
 以上促销活动解释权归Beijing Today

First-aid means first come, first served?

By Jackie Zhang

When people's lives are in danger, first-aid medical service is called in for help. First-aid doctors try their best to reach the patient as soon as possible, but what if the ambulance comes across another patient in danger on its way to a patient's home? Should it save that patient or go on to the first victim who called?

Last Thursday, a woman drowned in the Minxin River in Shijiazhuang, Hebei Province. When she was pulled from the river, the woman was short of breath. About 10 minutes later, a 120 ambulance passed by and was stopped by citizens.

However, the medical staff refused to give any help to the woman and continued on to their first patient. Ten minutes later, another ambulance arrived, but the woman had died.

"Since the first patient was seriously injured in a traffic accident, we had to fulfill our promise to the first patient," Li Ming, director of emergency medical department, Shijiazhuang Emergency Medical Center, said the following day.

Li denied that the medical staff from the center handled the case unfairly. "We have our principles during our process of providing first-aid task," he said. Once the 120 receives a patient's telephone call, there is a kind of reservation rela-

tionship between that patient and us, Li added.

"We must do our duty. If we met with another patient that needed help on our way to the first patient, we should aid the one whose condition is worse; or we must go on to the first patient," Li said, adding that the center in so doing followed Chinese law.

Li Jianren, a doctor from the Beijing Emergency Medical Center, learned of this incident quickly from a media report.

Being a medical staff member in the emergency center in Beijing, Li said the first ambulance did not violate their working rule. "Judging from my previous experience of visiting patients, the first patient asking for help should get help first," he said.

Li said there were no clear rules telling what first-aid doctors should do when they meet with unexpected matters on their way to a patient; all the decisions should be made by the doctors in the ambulance according to their experience.

"If the condition of the first patient is not dangerous and can wait for some time, the doctor should contact the emergency center first and then give help to the patient he met in transit. Otherwise, the ambulance shouldn't delay in getting to the first patient," Li said.



The woman pulled out of the river. When the police and the second ambulance arrived, she had already died.

Photo provided by Hebei Youth Daily

Comment

Find a win-win solution

I think one of the medical staff members in the first ambulance should have stayed with the drowning woman and saved her. The other doctors could go to the first patient, so that both of the patients would get first-aid care. Or they could have taken the woman into the ambulance first and given her first-aid on the way to the traffic accident location while contacting another ambulance or nearest hospital simultaneously.

— Jason Lu

First patient more important

The first patient had a contract relationship with the

emergency center. If the ambulance stopped or left a doctor to help the drowning victim, it is unfair to the first patient. I think the first ambulance did not do anything wrong.

— Eason Gui

It's not reasonable

From a moral stand point, I think the 120 ambulance acted wrongly. After all, the woman was alive. If they had given her basic first-aid, she might have been saved. As a result, at least one of the two patients could have been saved.

— Lauder 21

Try another way

I agree with the emergency center. People pay too much

attention to the dead woman. What about the accident victim? If I was the first patient or the patient's family members, what should I feel if I knew the doctors had turned to help another patient? It is unfair.

— break break

There's no injustice

There is no injustice or unfairness. It was a coincidence that an ambulance happened by. If there was no ambulance passing by, the woman would have had to wait for another ambulance regardless. Furthermore, sudden accidents shouldn't change the emergency doctor's schedule.

— Beaver

In-taxi cameras cause controversy

By Han Manman

A new global positioning system (GPS) device was set up in as many as 700 taxis in Chongqing Municipality to take pictures and monitor speech inside taxis.

The system will help taxi companies check whether drivers are rude in word or deed, or if they overcharge or refuse to carry passengers. It will also help police solve criminal cases, as many criminals take taxis to enter and flee crime scenes, according to the Chongqing Taxi Public Security office.

"Three pictures of passengers will be taken and sent to the control headquarters when they enter the taxi," a worker with Gongyun Taxi Company in Chongqing told Xinhua News.

When emergencies happen, such as a driver being threatened, the GPS system will automatically start up and the monitoring center can immediately take action.

In other Chinese cities, such as Chengdu in Sichuan Province and Zhongshan in southern Guangdong Province, taxi managers are also planning to install cameras in taxis.

While many welcome cameras in taxis to fight robbery, it has caused controversy since the first day of the plan's implementation.



The controversial digital cameras in taxis in Chongqing draw public concern.

CFP Photo

Comment

Help nab criminals

Many criminals use taxis to flee a crime scene. Even though the camera may not help crack a criminal case, the recording could be strong evidence to indict these people when we capture them.

— Lin Qiang, policeman from the Chongqing Police Bureau

Security

We implemented the plan to install cameras in taxis to deter

robbery of taxi drivers. The photos will only be viewed by the police and will be automatically deleted after a set period of time after no crimes have taken place, usually 24 hours.

— Wang Guoming, manager of Chongqing Taxi Company

Embarrassing

I agree that the cameras will help improve security, but I worry that they will be peeping

when we wear skimpier clothing in the summer. Will the cameras take pictures of sensitive body parts?

— Li Xin, university student

Feel safer

I do not think the cameras will threaten people's privacy. I will feel much safer on night shifts when driving to a remote place.

— Zhang Wei, taxi driver

Infringement of privacy

A taxi is not a totally public place. Some people taking a taxi together often have an intimate relationship and their behavior in a taxi may differ from when they are in other public places, such as on a bus. So, installing a camera in the cab may infringe on their privacy.

— Liu Ping'an, lawyer of Shaanxi Jiwei Law Office

A butterfly for his wife

By He Jianwei

The artistic director of Northern Ballet Theater (NBT), based in Leeds, England, will present Madame Butterfly from December 21 to 23 at the Poly Theater as the closing performance of the 5th Beijing International Dance Festival.

David Nixon, born in Chatham, Canada, became the artistic director of the NBT in 2001, adding an impressive array of new works into the repertoire including the hugely popular Madame Butterfly.

Spotlighting wife's talent

His original interest in Madame Butterfly came in 1983 when he wanted to create a piece to showcase his wife Yoko Ichino's dramatic possibilities combined with her grace and elegance.

Years later in Nixon's second season of directing Ballet Met in Columbus, Ohio he was searching for an idea for a full length ballet and while at lunch with his wife, he heard them playing Puccini and turned to her and asked if she would let him create a full length version of Madame Butterfly for her. She agreed and it became reality, and was then produced by several other companies in that format.

"When I came to the NBT, I was looking for the right choice for a first work for the company, one that would capture the audience with both a sense of a continuation of the style that had begun under Christopher Gable but also show a new direction," he said.

Cultural difference attracted him

Madame Butterfly is a story



The artistic director introduces Japanese-style dance into the classical ballet. Photo provided by Miky Way Arts and Communications Company

about innocence, love and betrayal happening in the picturesque garden of a Japanese villa. The Butterfly is fragile, unworldly and prepared to sacrifice everything for the love of the handsome American Lieutenant Pinkerton. He deserts her and their child, only to return years later with his new wife.

The Japanese-style dance is blended with classical ballet, capturing the pain and passion of the conflict between Butterfly's Japan and Pinkerton's America that lies at the heart of this tragedy.

"Having visited Japan many times and being married to a Japanese American, it was clear to me even now of the cultural differences between east and west," Nixon said.

He believed in the story that the audience needs to understand where Butterfly comes from, what passionate freedom means and why her death remains heroic.

"If we only judge her by western morality we can not fully appreciate her dilemma, determination and ultimate return to her family's

historic path for ultimate freedom from the life that had descended upon her," he said.

From opera to ballet

Madame Butterfly is one of the most frequently produced operas by Giacomo Puccini.

The main changes from opera to ballet are the introduction of Japanese music and references to the culture at the time.

"In the opera we do not know who this woman is before she first enters the scene, where she comes from and how marrying an

American could be a fascinating and absorbing life changing experience," he said.

In the last scene, that Butterfly dies alone with dignity bestowed a true heroine who has sacrificed everything for the two people she most loved—her lover and child.

"I could not believe that this incredible woman who gives up everything would insist that her lover witness her death. This is not an eastern woman but a western one in the most melodramatic sense," he said.

Flamenco king brings new passion to an old dance

By Gan Tian

Spanish "king of flamenco" Paco Mora, with his dancing troupe "Paco Mora Ballet Flamenco Espnol," lit up to the Poly Theater with the dance Blood Wedding from Tuesday evening to last night. Tonight they present the finale of this dance of passionate music, fancy footwork and glorious costumes.

Blood Wedding, originally a play written by Spanish playwright Federico Garcia Lorca (1898 - 1936), tells the story of a young bride torn between her fiancé and

lover. The show featured castanets and bright red flamenco boots all night, and the whole performance ended in a climax with Mora's 10-minute solo flamenco show bringing the audience's applause and screams.

Mora, who acted as the lady's lover, shared his understanding of his role in the play, "The story is about love, betrayal and loss. To bring the lover's thoughts to the stage is a difficult thing. His love, hesitation, anger, internal demons and passion must be

put into the dance and shown to the audience. Flamenco can express everything including sadness, happiness and anger."

Mora took on the roles of director and choreographer for the dance. "The thing is that teamwork is usually complicated. I always work with a set technical crew where I count on Anibal Corrado, for example, for the lighting, since he knows what I want," he said.

The 34-year old flamenco dancer arrived in Beijing at noon on Monday. Without a second's rest,

he hurried to the theater and gave a master class to the students from the Beijing Dance Academy. He praised Chinese students' hard work and gave some suggestions. "Some of the male dancers are too effeminate," he commented, "you stretch out your arms too wide, and kick with a sudden force."

Mora admitted that flamenco now faced the same problems as Beijing Opera. "In Spain, it is a traditional culture and the younger generation seems reluctant to touch it." However, Mora said all his works

were trying to deliver the charm of flamenco to the world. "I want to let the world know that flamenco is traditional Spanish culture and I find freedom in it," he said.

The dancer also mentioned that his flamenco is more modern. "Christina Hoyos is a great flamenco dancer. She uses modern movements to express this traditional culture. However, I travel a completely different path to make it more modern." The 19-person dancing troupe, including a singer and a guitarist, has already succeeded.

Fairytale Romance & Christmas Extravaganza 2007 @ Days Hotel & Suites Beijing

Romantic Silent Night

Spend a romantic night with Christmas Set Dinner and lucky draws. Taste Christmas drinks while entertained by live band music.

Where: A+A Club

When: December 24, 6:30 pm - 1 am next day

Set Ticket: 1,388 yuan net, for two persons with a one night's stay in a Superior Room.

Additional benefits per set ticket: 688 yuan net for third person; or 288 yuan net for a child between 3 and 12.

Fairytale Christmas Gala Night

Lavish buffet, entertainment shows, fun

games and lucky draws. Fabulous prizes feature Outbound Travel for two persons, Portable Computer, LCD TV and Cell Phone.

Where: Regal Palace Theatre Restaurant

When: 6:30 pm - midnight, December 24

Ticket: 1,288 yuan net for an adult; 688 yuan net for a child between 3 and 12.

Ginger Bread House

Where: Lobby

When: December 1 - 25

Tel: 6773 1234 ext 3930 or 8778 9888 ext 222



Better doctors and cheaper prices from local hospitals

Paralympics tickets now available

By He Jianwei

Spectators can order opening and closing ceremony tickets for the Beijing Paralympic Games starting December 10, the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG) announced Monday.

According to the ticketing plan, there will be 21,000 tickets for the opening ceremony and 26,000 tickets for the closing ceremony available. Bookings will end on December 30.

All ticket assignment will be decided by lottery. No time preferences will be given to any application, and all applications will have the same opportunity to win. After the lottery, BOCOG will notify all applicants of the results.

Tickets for the opening ceremony will be priced in five categories: 80, 400, 800, 1,500 and 2,600 yuan.

Closing ceremony tickets will be priced 50, 200, 400 and 600 yuan.

One applicant can only place one application with valid personal ID. The purchase limit is two ceremonies per application and two tickets per ceremony.

Applicants can order tickets through official ticketing website tickets.beijing2008.cn, or any of the 1,000 designated outlets of the Bank of China across the country. For more information, call BOCOG's ticketing center at 952008.

The authorities have also set up related departments to oversee the ticketing program to prevent fraud. Reports of violations can be addressed to the Supervision Commission at 6669 8127 or jiaundu2008@beijing2008.cn.

Tips

- There are as many as 417 state-run hospitals in town. Famous big hospitals have far more patients. Choose a hospital near where you work or live.

- If you are not very confident with your Chinese, it's better to ask a Chinese friend to go with you the first time.

- The registration procedure may seem complicated. First, register. Generally, the registration fee is 5 yuan for most doctors. You can consult the doctor and he or she will write you a prescription. Take the ticket to the cashier and pay, then take the receipt to the hospital's pharmacy window. Credit-cards are not accepted at most local hospitals. Take enough cash with or your ATM card. Most hospitals have an ATM machine.

- Antibiotics are commonly prescribed in Chinese hospitals. Discuss with the doctor how long a course you should take.

- Tell the doctor if you prefer inexpensive medicine because you do not have medical insurance.

- Registering with a senior-level doctor has other benefits. Older doctors tend to be more patient and give special care to foreigners.

- You can register with many hospitals by phone. At Chaoyang Hospital, for example, you can pay 15 yuan to pre-register for service five times. Call in a day in advance to register a time slot. Most departments are open 8 - 11:30 am and 1:30 - 5 pm, Monday to Friday. Some departments close on weekends or only open half a day, so be sure to check.



The Beijing Children's Hospital is jammed with flu-stricken children and parents in winter. CFP Photo

By Annie Wei

One cold winter night, Adam Lyons, 24, an American, called his best friend to take him to the hospital after being struck by a serious illness.

Like many other young expats, Lyons did not come to China with a prestigious scholarship or corporate job that provides good insurance. He did not even know whether his home insurance covered time abroad.

It turned out to be a cranial infection, and he had to borrow US \$600 from his friend to pay the Beijing United Family.

When Lyons told the story to drinking buddies in Nanjie, another young man piped in, "I broke my thumb and it cost me US \$300 to set and wrap it in a private Western hospital. I knew it was expensive on an English teacher's salary, but I was glad to pay. At least I knew what the doctor was doing, not like in a Chinese hospital."

The advantage of private Western hospitals is clear: the doctors speak English and the environment is comfortable.

However, not all expats agree. DC, 33, an Australian, refused giving his full name - with good reason.

DC's first hospital trip came shortly after he arrived in China. He went to an SOS clinic in the Lido area for a urinary tract infection. "I was stunned when they billed me 7,500 yuan. I only brought 1,000 yuan with me," he said. "For what they billed me, I could fly back home, get free medical service."

He left SOS with a fake billing address and never went back.

Since then, DC has only gone to local hospitals. "My Chinese is good enough to see Chinese doctors, and I think the doctors treat me better since I'm a foreigner without family support," he said.

What bothered him the most about seeing Chinese doctors, he said, is how many people crowd around.

Not everyone has a good insurance package, so it's best to have information on local hospitals on hand.

Famous local hospitals

Peking Union (Xiehe) Hospital

This is one of the most prestigious hospitals in this country.

The cost of registration in the foreigners' wing is 100 to 300 yuan, depending on the status of the doctors you prefer to consult: a physician, assistant professor or university professor. Since most of the doctors are trained abroad, their English is good.

Its obstetrics department has a good reputation. Superstar Faye Wong gave birth to both her daughters here. Many expat wives also chose this hospital for child-birth.

Where: 53 Dongdan Beidajie, Dongcheng,
Tel: 6529 5284

Beijing Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital

One of the most popular for local pregnant women is Beijing Obstetrics and Gynecology. They deliver as many as 900 babies per month.

Giving birth in a Chinese hospital costs 3,000-10,000 yuan, depending on how difficult labor is. It costs 40,000-60,000 yuan at a private hospital, and may be even more expensive at better-known ones.

Consider giving birth at a local hospital if your insurance does not cover childbirth.

Where: 251 Yaojiayuan Lu, Chaoyang
Tel: 8597 6699

Sino-Japanese Friendship Hospital

Another well-known Chinese hospital among expats because of its pleasant foreigners' wing. Registration in the foreigners' wing cost 100 yuan. For local patients, this hospital

is more spacious.

Where: Yinghua Donglu, Hepingli, Hepingjie Beikou, Chaoyang
Tel: 6422 2952

Tiantan Hospital

This hospital, built in 1958 at the southwest side of the Temple of Heaven, is known for its neurology department.

Where: 6, Tiantan Xili, Chongwen,
Tel: 6709 6611

Beijing Medical College 3rd hospital

Nicknamed Beiyisanyuan by locals, this hospital is famous for its osteopathic department.

For simple orthodontics, most state-run hospitals can do the job. Generally speaking, a cleaning costs 200 yuan, pulling a tooth costs 150 yuan, and it is another 100 yuan for a full-mouth X-ray. A braces program costs, on average, 10,000 yuan.

Beijing Anding Psychiatric Hospital

Where: 5 Ankang Hutong, Deshengmen Wai, Xicheng
Tel: 8208 5307/ 6201 3330

Ditan Hospital

Famous for handling infectious disease.

Where: 13, Ditan Gongyuan, Andingmen Waidajie,
Tel: 6421 1031

Eryuansuo (Pediatrics study institute)

Young Chinese parents take their children to this hospital on weekend mornings. That explains why the street is so packed.

Where: 2 Yabaolu, Chaoyang
Tel: 8563 7766

Kitchen Asia gather together the gourmet food 好苑建国酒店
JIANGUO GARDEN HOTEL & BEIJING

RMB 138net/person

= Lobster+Swimming Crab
+ Prawn+Steak+Teppan-Yaki
+ Beijing Roast Duck
+ Cake+haagendazs =unlimited

北京建国门内大街17号
No.17 Jianguomennei Avenue, Beijing
订餐电话 / TEL: 6528.6666 - 20105

厨业 房洲
Kitchen Asia

Gymnastics event puts new stadium to the test

By Han Manman

The "Good Luck Beijing" 2007 Artistic Gymnastics International Invitational Tournament concludes at the National Indoor Stadium on Monday. The six-day event is the first testing of the new venue, which will host artistic gymnastics, trampoline, handball and wheelchair basketball events during next year's Olympic Games and Paralympics.



The new National Indoor Stadium.

Photos by Zuma Cui

China dominates the medals podium

The Gymnastics tournament wrapped up with China, Japan, Korea and Ukraine sharing the 12 gold medals. China took 12 of the 36 medals of which nine were gold and three silver. The host team demonstrated a clear superiority in the sport, winning gold in whichever event they competed except the uneven bars final, where Jiang Yuyuan took the silver. China's Lu Bin, with four golds to his credit, reaped the greatest harvest at the tournament, while Chenfei won three golds.

The Beijing invitational attracted a few veterans such as Cheng Fei and Chellsie Memmel of Australia who had gained medals in previous major world tournaments. As winner of the women's all-around at the 2005 World Championships, Memmel has been plagued by injuries in the past two years. Staging a powerful comeback this time, the Australian veteran earned two bronze medals, in the floor and beam competition, in addition to a fifth place in the all-around final.

With the approach of the 2008 Olympic Games, gymnasts are working hard on more difficult parts and combinations and striving for perfect execution. This time in Beijing, some gymnasts tested their new routines while a few others worked on their weaker events so that they could later try out for the all-around event. Cheng Fei, for example, began her intensified training on the beam not long ago and her hard work proved fruitful as she harvested an unexpected win in the beam final.

Stadium a solar success

With construction starting in May 2005, the National Indoor Stadium has a steel roof truss of double bowstring, boasting the biggest span of roof trusses in the world. The National Indoor Stadium has a capacity of 20,000, which is expected to be the biggest in China.

The stadium is designed to evoke the shape of a traditional Chinese fan in the center of the "Olympic Green" and become a characteristic architecture along with the "Bird's Nest" and "Water Cube".

A total of 1,124 solar panels have been installed on the roof of the stadium. The panels will supply up to 100 kilowatts of energy daily, enough to meet the lighting demand of the stadium's underground area covering a floor space of 20,000 square meters.

The designers of the project

foresee a lifetime of 25 years for the solar batteries, which will generate a total of 2.32 million kilowatt hours of energy, the equivalent of 904.8 tons of standard coal. This means that 2,352.5 tons of carbon dioxide, 21.7 tons of oxygen dioxide and nitrogen oxide will not be emitted due to the use of these solar panels.

Designers and builders made massive efforts to reduce noise. Experiments showed that their labors achieved expected effects. When a heavy rain is falling, it is not audible inside the stadium. Zhang Guoqiang, the project manager, said, "The walls of the stadium utilized nine layers of multifunctional metal complex materials with a thickness of 25 centimeters and successfully resolved the rainfall noise problem that commonly exists in most stadium buildings."

With the technology of steel scoria backfilling, natural lighting and solar generating, the contribution of the National Indoor Stadium demonstrates its characteristics of a "Green Olympics, People's Olympics and Hi-tech Olympics."

Commenting on the venue operation and competition management of the Beijing tournament, Bruno Grandi, President of the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG), said though it was not perfect it was good enough for such a test event. The results of the test, he added, will be very helpful for further improvement. He believed by the time of the Beijing Games, the venue and its supporting facilities will function better and the organizing work and related services will be more compatible to the expectations of all.



Athlete on the Women's Balance Beam.

Medical team first-aid ready

At the National Indoor Stadium these days there is a medical team consisting of a group of special volunteers in both orange clothes and eye-catching red-cross armbands.

The medical team is committed to providing first-aid services for all the events held at the National Indoor Stadium with medical stations set up at competition and training venues, viewing stands and athletes' residences, and providing first-aid and transportation services for accredited athletes, judges, officials, working staff and spectators.

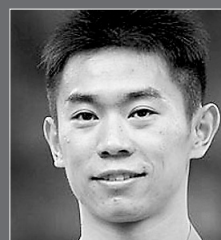
According to medical manager Deng Mingzhuo, the medical team is made up of doctors and students from nine medical institutions including the Beijing Friendship Hospital, Capital Medical University and Capital Institute of Pediatrics. In view of the particularity of sports events, these doctors,

mostly orthopedists and surgeons, are staffed to take care of wrenches, sprains and falls, or even more serious vertebral injuries that may happen frequently during training and competitions.

In light of the characteristics of gymnastics and trampoline, the medical team is specially equipped with such first-aid apparatus as hard spine boards and they have carried out special rehearsals.

"Accuracy is the most important and speed comes next", Deng noted. "Even the familiarity with the paths of competition venues may affect first-aid efficiency." Within months after the medical team's formation, they had invited experts for regular training, including instruction in English skills in case they need to communicate with an injured foreign athlete or his team doctor.

Comment



Actually I was under pressure, because the difficulty degree was 6.4. But my performance was smooth and good. I will increase the difficulty degree through the winter training and never stop. Maybe my difficulty degree will be increased to 6.5.

— Lu Bin, Gold medalist



The only thing I want to suggest is to improve the taxi drivers' English. I experienced at least 50 drivers and none could speak even some basic English.

— Oliver Uraemer, German television reporter



I came here everyday. Most of the things are satisfactory to me except for some detailed issues. The indoor temperature is a little bit high, and the air is not as fresh as other venues. The LED record boards seem too small.

— Peng Le, photographer



It's my first time to see an Olympic level competition in China. It's so exciting! I love the atmosphere in here. Everyone is warming to me and the competition itself is spectacular.

— Patty Morrison, a US visitor



I once participated in the European Gymnastics Championships, and here it's very well-organized. I felt I was in the real Olympics.

— Petar Rezac, Croatian judge (By Han Manman)

Photos by Han Manman

Comment



The venue is beautiful. I think the Chinese team did not send out its top players this time. The Chinese girls are young. I think they should practice more and accumulate more experience this time through.

Zhu Lu, teacher of Beijing Normal University Zhuhai Campus



We are excited to have the chance to see the competition in China and encourage the athletes from our home country Azerbaijan. The girls from Azerbaijan performed very well. My friends and I hope they can win this time. Anna Bessonova from the Ukraine is really excellent.

Ixtiyar Atalizade, Azerbaijan student from Beijing Language and Culture University



It is a nice area to see other stadiums like the "bird's nest" and the "water cube." However, it's December and it was cold and dark outside. There weren't enough clearly-marked road signs for people like me who were visiting for the first time.

Gabe Warren, 28, working for a US organization in Shanghai



It was my first time to see the trampoline event. But the whole competition seemed too short and it was over too quickly. It was a good thing that gymnastics and trampoline events were held in the same venue, because it meant we could watch more than one sport.

Larz Stewart, 29, US, visiting friends in Beijing

Photos by Jackie Zhang/
Annie Wei

Young girls strut their stuff in rhythmic gymnastics

By Jackie Zhang

The 2007 Rhythmic Gymnastics International Invitational Tournament raised the curtain Wednesday evening at the stadium of Beijing University of Technology (BUT). Young girls from 16 countries and regions showed their best performances during the event.

Individual and Group All-Round Qualifications were held on Wednesday and Thursday. Rope, hoop, clubs and ribbon were included in the all-round competitions. The final competition of Individual All-Round will be held this afternoon, and Group All-Round will start this evening.

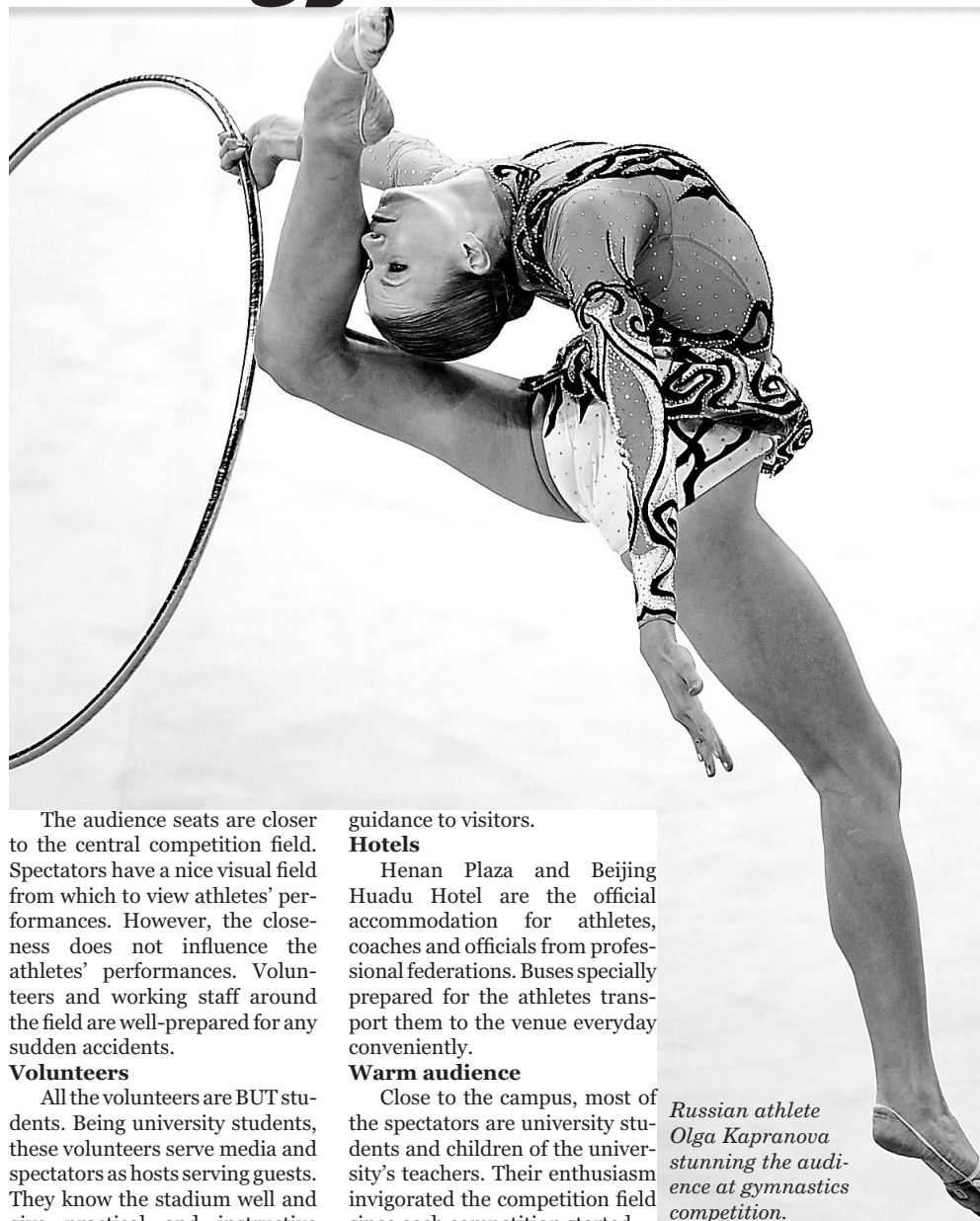
World's top athletes

Ukrainian athlete Anna Bessonova and Olga Kapranova from Russia are two top athletes among all the young girls. In the first day's qualifications, the two girls demonstrated their outstanding skills and gave the audience enjoyable performances.

Anna Bessonova is the gold medalist of the 27th World Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships held in Greece. And Kapranova won the bronze medal. Girls from Italy had won several medals in previous Olympic Games and they highlight the event this time.

Green venue

The stadium at BUT had been used for holding badminton competitions in October. The design and structure were all done by Chinese. The ground around the stadium is paved with colorful bank concrete and can absorb rain and help water circularly flow both on and under the ground. Plants around the venue get enough water to grow.



Russian athlete Olga Kapranova stunning the audience at gymnastics competition.

The audience seats are closer to the central competition field. Spectators have a nice visual field from which to view athletes' performances. However, the closeness does not influence the athletes' performances. Volunteers and working staff around the field are well-prepared for any sudden accidents.

Volunteers

All the volunteers are BUT students. Being university students, these volunteers serve media and spectators as hosts serving guests. They know the stadium well and give practical and instructive

guidance to visitors.

Hotels

Henan Plaza and Beijing Huadu Hotel are the official accommodation for athletes, coaches and officials from professional federations. Buses specially prepared for the athletes transport them to the venue everyday conveniently.

Warm audience

Close to the campus, most of the spectators are university students and children of the university's teachers. Their enthusiasm invigorated the competition field since each competition started.

China expects good results in trampoline next year

By Annie Wei

Although trampoline has a 50-year history in European and American countries, it only came to the Olympics in 2000.

In China, trampoline is a new sport which started recruiting and training athletes in 1998 and its national team was established in 2002. The Chinese public was not introduced to the trampoline event until Huang Shanshan took a bronze medal in the 2004 Athens Olympics.

Zhao Jiawei, director of the

trampoline department at the State Gymnastics Center talked about trampoline development in China.

Zhao said, China's trampoline development was based on gymnastics, and most of the athletes had to transform themselves from gymnasts. Fortunately, many of the basic rules for trampoline mirror gymnastics, and China has a long history of the latter.

This tournament was also a qualification event for the Olympics. China ended up with four can-

didates for next year's Olympics, two in 2004 and none in 2000. Zhao thinks this testifies to the quick development of trampoline in China.

Zhao said popular athletes came to the tournament to experience the new stadium and testing procedures this time.

Zhao said that China had not earned a gold for trampoline yet, but Chinese athletes had the potential to win. Other countries are also very competitive.



Ye Shuai of China won in men's trampoline.

Photos by Zuma Cui

Trampoline tournament full of surprises

By Annie Wei

The "Good Luck Beijing" 2007 Trampoline Gymnastics International Invitational Tournament came to an end at the National Indoor Stadium on December 3, with China's Ye Shuai and Ukraine's Olena Movchan winning the men's and women's events respectively.

The four-day event attracted almost all the top gymnasts from

around the world, including seven of the top eight from the recent World Championships. In the men's qualifying round on the opening day of the tournament, however, a number of veterans, including world runner-up Dong Dong of China, got eliminated, to the surprise of all.

The women's qualification went smoothly, except for Irina Kara-

vaeva, this year's world champion from Russia, unexpectedly bowing out on a blunder.

Contrary to the women's qualification event, the women's final saw China's top seed Huang Shanshan, bronze medalist from the World Championships and a hot favorite for the title, finishing a disappointing seventh after making some mistakes. Rosan-

nagh MacLennan of Canada and He Wenna of China, second and fourth in the world fixture, ended up with silver and bronze medals. The gold medal went to Olena Movchan, a dark horse from the Ukraine.

After the chaos in the qualification round, the men's final resumed its normal order, when world champion Ye Shuai of China emerged the winner.



Floating Leaf (Detail)
Photos provided by Beijing
Today Art Museum

Modern art v classic poetic

Tim Yip's first solo exhibition – Illusi

By He Jianwei

Academy Award winner Tim Yip unveiled his first solo exhibition, "Illusions of Silence," at Beijing Today Art Museum. The exhibition are not as magnificent and colorful as his costume designing. He concentrates not on the contrast between the past and the present – about the process of self-cleansing.

The exhibition is a self-cleansing process

With a career in art direction for feature film, theater, and costume design for over 20 years, Tim Yip has now turned his attention to contemporary art. This exhibition includes not only photographic works, but also a showcase of new works completed over the past year.

He thought about presenting his first solo exhibition back in February. Although costume design has brought him much acclaim, it is but a small part of his artistic thinking, since it does not fully encompass his

personal trademark, Yip said.

He believes the world of film is two-dimensional, because it is a product of different co-operations. "In front of it, I have no personality; I embrace the thinking of everyone involved," Yip said, sitting on the sofa and sipping his fruit tea in a cafe last Tuesday.

He does enjoy communicating with others on the films, which are the synthesis of light and shadow, and he and the directors get

an inspirational flow.

take the lead to come to the present – about the process of self-cleansing.

"Directors would like tearing one's heart out, ever, I express it through

Meditation in darkness

At first, Yip titled his exhibition "If I'm Free, Are You There?" because he believed that art and culture need a response from the audience. "I don't know whether the viewers will come to my exhibition as I am not associated now with the world of film," he said.

As he created the works for the exhibition day by day, he developed a deeper understanding about what happened not only in the field of contemporary art, but also in the whole of society. "The outside is too noisy, as people are

always interested in speeding up development and unceasingly moving forward, and no one likes to take a rest to mediate the past," he said.

Then, Yip changed the name of his work to, "Illusions of Silence". He provided a space of silence that was suitable for viewers to meditate and try to find what they didn't see in their daily life. "There are too many things beneath prosperity and the real world," he said.

In his exhibition, the artist has blocked the natural daylight

intentionally and made a giant "black box" for the viewers allowing only light from the videos. He effectively designed the whole atmosphere of the different exhibition halls, as he believes all his works exist in the world he created.

All the video works are silent. "Although they are silent, the viewers can hear from what they see on the screen," he said.

"Night is the shadow of day; wind is the shadow of air; stones are the shadows of mountains; and mountains

are all

shadows

Ghosts

The c

Yip's

aesth

W

from

explo

Works create dialogue

Starting from the entrance, the viewers will see a sculpture entitled, "Floating Leaf," in front of the hall, which is eight meters long and three meters high.

In front of the sculpture is a video projection installation entitled, "Forest," showing the texture of the shadows of trees, and the glittering of the sun. Opposite this video is another one called "Rain."

The three pieces of works create a dialogue amongst them. "All of them appear in the context of

leaves falling from a tree and floating on the water," he said.

Yip created a leg for the leaf. "It is a kind of personification. The leaf wants to run forward, but it is too heavy; it seems vigorous, but it is corrupted," he said.

Walking through a narrow entrance, the viewers will see a sculpture and a video in the second exhibition hall. The sculpture entitled, "Black Dancer," is

four meters long and almost four meters high, which appears to be the image of a running man whose dismembered yet powerful leg leaves the viewer's mind wandering.

It is called Kui in Chinese. Actually, it is a one-legged monster from a Chinese bestiary, which presents a fascinating pageant of mythical creatures from a unique and enduring cosmography written in ancient China.

It is said that Huangdi the Yellow Emperor, a legendary ancestor of the Han Chinese, made drums from Kui's skin and defeated the battle between the two chieftains. Yip found it was interesting that the monster was also a hero," he said.

In front of the sculpture is a video. He shot the videos of Sun in Yixian, Henan Province, home of the Western Zhou Dynasty.

Poetry through photography

On the third and fourth floors of the museum, Yip placed 34 photographic works, which were taken by him from his studies in Europe 20 years ago.

He selected these 34 photos from over 10,000 pictures and named it "Passage." "The works of Passage also have some illusions. I usually find something transformed.

For instance, if I see a person and a chair, I will fuse them together," he said.

He believes that illusions happen when two objects have a relationship of in-

between. "It is a kind of super-realism," he said.

Yip tries to uncover some poetic language translated by his photos. "The p

Gijon



Hong Kong



Tim Yip



Peng Hu Islands



Collapse



Peng Hu Islands



Paris



Waiting

About Tim Yip

Born in Hong Kong, Tim Yip is an Academy Award-winning costume designer. Since his early work on *A Better Tomorrow*, he has been a designer of production and costume for Best Art Direction at the 2000 Academy Awards for the successful romantic fantasy, *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*.

Illusions of Silence

Where: Beijing Today Art Museum

When: Daily 10 am – 5 pm, till Jan 10

Admission: 10 yuan

Tel: 5876 0600 ext 6035

with a c soul ons of Silence

um Wednesday. Yip's works in
between different colors, but on the
installation and photography.

ow from their communication. "But this time, I
vey the message – pieces collected from childhood to
this world, and show it to everyone; it is actually a
asing from the start," he said.
d normally use the medium of film for this process,
eat open and then stitching it up. This time, how-
rough the medium of contemporary art," he said.

also the shadows of stones. And yet dreams are the
ows of waking; dreams are the underlying currents.
ts are not the shadows of men, but variations of men.
reated are the shadows of the creator." Such is Tim
poetic language that he uses to describe his personal
etic of "shadows."
hat we clearly feel is that Illusions of Silence begins
shadows of reality and fantasy, and then proceeds to
re the silent corners and dark worlds.

ellow Emperor, the
hinese, made nine
ated Chiyou during the
s around 2,500 BC. "I
incomplete could be

a video called "Sun."
ian Xiling, Hebei
Tombs complex of the

Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). When he sat in a car with
the trees passing by, the shadows and light attracted
him. "The sunlight goes from dim to bright passing
through the trees, which looks bizarre especially in the
dust," he said.

"The one-legged monster faces the sun, which
will inspire viewers to think of Kuafu, the man who
chased the sun and eventually died of thirst in Chinese
mythology," he said.

" is quite amazing. It is human nature.
But nowadays people don't understand the
poems, so I try to find the classic beauty in
my photos," he said.

n art director, costume designer and production designer.
orrow (1986) with director John Woo, Yip has worked as
s in a handful of feature films. He was awarded the Oscar
ademy Awards for his work on Ang Lee's internationally
ing Tiger, Hidden Dragon.

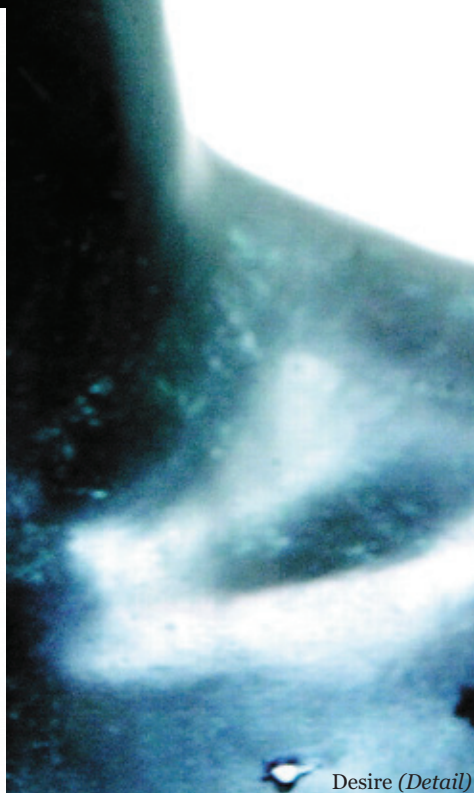
um, Building 4, 32 Baiziwan Lu, Chaoyang
January 3, 2008



g Room



Desire



Desire (Detail)

Door to a demented world

Demented Art: Report on Chinese Mental Patients' Art

By He Jianwei

It is difficult to make a distinction between insanity and greatness when looking back at the artists, thinkers and writers that history remembers: Dutch post-Impressionist Vincent van Gogh, the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche and the French symbolist poet Arthur Rimbaud.

Chinese artist Guo Haiping and psychiatrist Wang Yu have co-authored a book on artwork done by China's mental patients. The book followed Guo's live-in with mental patients in Nanjing Zutangshan Mental Hospital, where he asked the patients to paint and make ceramics.

Demented Art: Report on Chinese Mental Patients' Art (291 pp, 68 yuan, Hunan Fine Arts Publishing House) is an interdisciplinary monograph on the patients' works both in Chinese and English. It introduces the often unknown special mental state of domestic mental patients with vivid and detailed language and pictures.

The book includes 11 case studies. In each, Wang gives a brief medical history about the patient from the angle of psychiatrist; Guo then writes a story about his experience with the patient and from his own artistic view.

Most of the works presented in this book were made by patients with extraordinary, indomitable willpower, or by patients who had only recently arrived in the hospital. "Of over a hundred patients I interacted with, only a small proportion had actively sought

to join in the art activities," Guo said.

Two years ago, Guo planned to write a book about the mental patients in China. "The inextricably complex relationship between art and mental illness confused and attracted me," he said.

He founded the Art Analysis Department of Nanjing Youth Psychology Consulting Center in 1989. "I encountered many young people who were seeking spiritual help and support, and I observed every kind of conflict endemic to human nature. I realized that mental illness was appearing in every corner of our society, and that what we called pathological was actually normal in our society," he said.

In the later part of the book, Guo added some excerpts of his diary in the hospital, recording his observations about the mental patients and how they painted and made ceramics.

"Living in the hospital gave me a new understanding of psychology, mental patients, art and the soul. I became aware of the weaknesses and limitations of psychological medicine and of the sorrow and desolation of the mental patients," he said.

In the end of the book, Guo and Wang gave their explanations about the special terms both in art and medicine. "It will be helpful for people to understand some certain terms, because people interested in art may not know the terms in medicine, and those interested in medicine may not know the terms in art," he said.

癡狂的艺术

中国精神病人艺术报告

Demented Art

Report on Chinese Mental Patients' Art

郭海平 王玉 著

Guo Haiping Wang Yu

湖南美术出版社

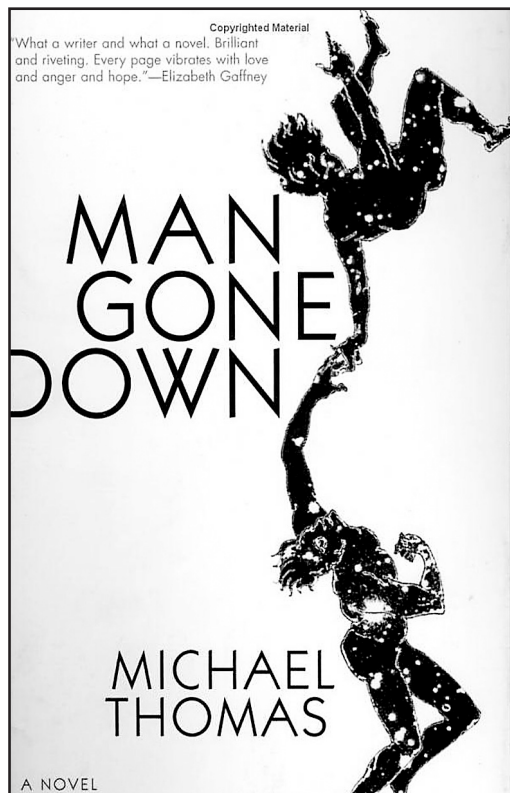
Hunan Fine Arts Publishing House

About the authors

Guo Haiping, born in Nanjing in 1962, founded the Art Analysis Department of Nanjing Youth Psychology Consulting Center in 1989. In recent years, he has curated and participated in the exhibition, including *Disease: Our Art Today, Our Obstacle, Restriction and Freedom and Personal Narration*.

Wang Yu, 42, a 1991 graduate of Nanjing Medical Academy, is currently the ward director of Nanjing Zutangshan Mental Hospital, where she has worked since 2000.

When the American dream turns to dust



The unnamed father-of-three is such an antithesis of the American dream as to be typical. Born in Boston and living in Brooklyn, he is a struggling writer with a blue-blooded white wife and three children to support. He has four days to come up with US \$12,000 to pay tuition at his children's private school, bring back his family and pay apartment rent – so he can finally move out of his friend's home.

In *Man Gone Down* (432 pp, Grove Press, Black Cat, US \$11.20), Michael Thomas's breakthrough novel, the reader follows his hero through four chaotic days and the lifetime that led up to them. The book uses continuous flashbacks to jump into the past and examine his hero's early days as a product of the 1970s "bus system," a social experiment which bussed children from poor neighborhoods to rich, white schools. He looks back on the hero's abusive mother and always-absent father.

But far from all these struggles being inflicted on the hero, he has created some of his own. The hero has battled debilitating alcoholism, violent outbursts while at school in Harvard University and the collapse and cancellation of all his childhood dreams.

The difference in tone between how he speaks to his light-skinned son "X" versus

his dark-skinned one "C" is the vehicle used to explore and expose the fallacy of America as a "melting pot." He fears for his children because of their mixed racial background.

His younger son looks "exactly like" him, "except he's white." The boy has a shock of blond hair and pale blue eyes – strikingly out of place on a tanned frame he inherited from his father. His older son, however, is dark skinned. At birth, the boy is like a mirror, reflecting all the racial insecurities, hateful epithets, childhood abuse and scars back at him. The hero is closer to the older son, and feels a need to protect him in a way he doesn't his other son.

The story is rife with such social commentary. The hero battles a fate predetermined by both country and genes, and Thomas shows the poison of kindness on those whom it is forced. The rich are better off than the poor, but not because of what their wealth affords them. Wealth spares the rich the indignity of being given a hand-out.

Man Gone Down uses startling imagery of the class divisions between rich and poor as it peels away the social layers of urban Brooklyn to illustrate how far the American dream is from being in step with reality.

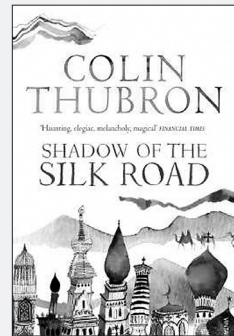
(By Derrick Sobodash)

Bookworm book listing

Jenny Niven from the Bookworm has the lowdown on three of the newest releases listed at the Sanlitun cafe for readers.

Shadow of the Silk Road

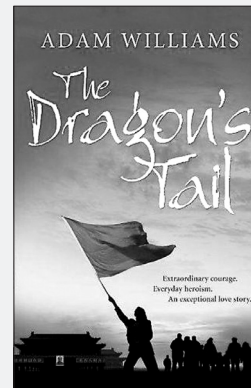
By Colin Thubron, 384 pp, 180 yuan, Vintage Books



There was never one Silk Road – but several. The route chosen by Colin Thubron passes through China, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan, Iran and Turkey by local bus, truck, car – occasionally horse or camel. He covers 11,263 kilometers in 8 months, and confesses that it is the most difficult, complex and ambitious journey he has undertaken in 40 years of travel.

The Dragon's Tail

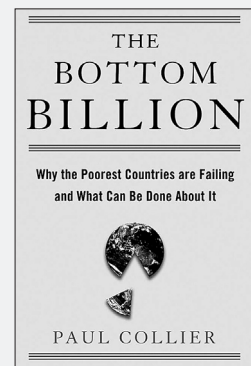
By Adam Williams, 560 pp, 180 yuan, Hodder & Stoughton



Harry Airtton, a Scottish fisherman, has China in his blood. *The Dragon's Tail* is an epic novel that takes us from Airtton's early idyllic childhood in China, through the Korean War, to Cold War Eastern Europe.

The Bottom Billion: Why the poorest countries are failing and what can be done about it

By Paul Collier, 224 pp, 250 yuan, Oxford University



The book shines a much needed light on a group of small nations, largely unnoticed by the industrialized West, that are dropping further and further behind the majority of the world's people. A struggle rages within each of these nations between reformers and corrupt leaders – and the corrupt are winning.

(By He Jianwei)

Enjoying the urban playground

The street is the best playground: hopscotch and bean bag tossing were popular games in the 1970s and 1980s, and graffiti, parkour and skateboarding are the street games of the new generation. Street game lovers have been exploring new curbside entertainment, and classic arcade games and Frisbee have become the choice for many.

Spin Collectif, a new game of Frisbee

In front of Napoleon Bonaparte's grave, near the River Seine in Paris, six young men met five years ago. The five Frisbee fans decided to create a game of their own.

Frisbee is always played on grassy turf or on a beach. For instance, ultimate Frisbee is played between two teams on an American football field and disc golf is played in an open field. But these Frisbee fans have found a new arena for their game: the city.

All of them love urban culture, underground music and Chinese Martial Arts. Rather than being confined by the typical rules, they formed "Spin Collectif," a street Frisbee group in 2004.

They and their Frisbees have turned up in subway stations, parking lots, open-well staircases and street gardens.

Sisco Sebastiao, 30, a Portuguese man born in Nogent, France, is the founder of Spin Collectif. He was an avid skateboarder in his childhood and gave it up when he realized that he could not progress further. After that, he started to practice Chinese Martial Arts and play Frisbee.

Sebastiao is skilled with both right and left hands, and has worked out a way to throw a Frisbee using his elbows to change direction.

Kai Ly, 32, is a Chinese, French and Cambodian mix and was born in Hong Kong. He has his own "dragon slap" technique, where he kicks the Frisbee to bounce it to the thrower. "It's cool and makes me feel like Zinedine Zidane," Ly said.

Pierric Chardon, 32, is nicknamed "Spin Tank" because he looks like a giant. However, he is excellent at catching Frisbees. David Fremont, 31, is always silent. He looks modest and a little shy, but is a skillful skater and wax paper artist. He has a technique called "impossible catch" where he catches the Frisbee under his thigh.

Cyril Jacob, 31, looks like a financial clerk, but is actually a master inventor of Frisbee techniques. He invented the "hand rail," where the Frisbee is thrown along the rails, the "wall ride," along the wall, and the "wall bump," or bouncing the Frisbee from walls.

Julien Menetrat, 32, is the craziest one in this group. He has combined all kinds of techniques to create his own style.

You can find the videos of their games on spincollectif.com. Try your hand at it if you have the chance!



Spin Collectif is famous for its trick throws.



This building has been invaded.

Photo by space-invaders.com

Space Invader, scouting out the enemy

If you keep an eye on every corner while walking the street and enjoy taking pictures and playing classic arcade games, the Space Invaders reality game is perfect for you.

This game is based on Space Invaders, an arcade game designed and programmed by Toshihiro Nishikado for Taito, Japan, in 1978. Space Invaders remains one of the most popular arcade games ever.

It was originally going to be called something completely different, as the aliens were originally soldiers you had to shoot down. Taito decided it was a politically bad move to encourage killing humans, so it changed the people into aliens.

People placed stickers of various invaders in public places, such as the walls of a building, in a cross-walk or on the side of a bridge. The game is currently being played in as many as 34 cities around the world.

1. How to find Space Invaders

Memorize the pictures used for each invader - different images are worth different scores. If you don't know them already, play the video game.

When you walk the street, look carefully. Don't neglect any corner, because even the most impossible places are worth your attention.

Go to space-invaders.com to keep an eye on the action in other cities all over world.

2 How to be an invader

Besides being a seeker, you can also be an invader. Purchase stickers from the website or make your own.

Secondly, find a place people pass frequently but usually ignore. Stick your stickers there. Make sure to leave the scene exactly as you found it - don't make a mess.

(By He Jianwei)

The city is the ultimate playground.

Photos by 6co.fr



By Gan Tian

Hotpot, less commonly known as "Chinese fondue," is something no one should miss out on during the winter season.

In this food page special, *Beijing Today* introduces several newly-opened hotpot restaurants. Though they are not your typical Chinese hotpot, food lovers can see how world citizens have continued to develop traditional Chinese cuisine.

Several recipes are also provided, some of which may be vying for the title of strangest hotpot in the world.



Wintertime Time for hot pot again!



Photo provided by Mongolian Palace Hotpot

Enjoying a Mongolian hotpot

By Han Manman

It is hard not to be mesmerized by the stunning decor at Puspa, a new Mongolian restaurant.

From the outside, the restaurant doesn't look like anything special, and aside from two red lanterns hanging outside the gate, nothing sets it apart from nearby restaurants. Its doorway is like a wormhole into the past.

Although there are Mongolian flourishes – a large bronze bust of Genghis Khan and a mounted yak's head – the decor is more reminiscent of a steamy Middle Eastern bazaar than a yurt in the Gobi.

Rooms are framed by delicate, honeycombed doorways with overhangs made of swathes of silk and satin. The interior is decorated with stunning Moroccan lamps, shisha pipes, soft throw-pillows and trinkets.

The antipasto is an unsweetened glass of yogurt and fruit, apparently to cleanse out palate for the barrage of meat to follow. The Mongolian yogurt is thick, with a much mellowed milk flavor.

The stone baked beef at 68 yuan is a highlight, with chunks of meat doused

in spices and cooked atop smooth stones in a heavy iron pot.

Mongolian Palace Hotpot is another house specialty. The dish, Hua Rina, Puspa owner and dancer-turned-businesswoman, said, dated back to the early 13th century. After a furious campaign, Genghis Khan, leader of the Mongols, ordered his army chef to slaughter some sheep for the grill.

However, a report said the enemy was preparing to attack again and was only 5 kilometers away. The chef chopped apart the sheep and boiled it, serving it with salt, shallots and ginger as soon as it turned color. The Khan ate it and went on to win the battle.

From that day on, whenever the Khan won a war, he always ordered the dish to celebrate the victory. In time, the chef's emergency creation came to be known as "Mongolian Hotpot."

Mongolian Palace Hotpot

Where: 78, Xinkailu Hutong, Wangfujing street, Dongcheng District

Open: 11 am – 2 pm, 6 pm – 11 pm

Tel: 6512 8169

One pot per person

By Han Manman

In the 10 years since moving to the capital, Dingdingxiang has opened six branches, the latest of which is in the SOHO Shangdu Shopping Mall.

Dingding Xiang, literally translated as "fragrant pot," dispels sanitation concerns by giving each customer his or her own small pot.

In a traditional hotpot restaurant, diners sit around one large pot and share. In Dingdingxiang, each customer is given an individual pot so they don't have to endure the extra flavoring of each other's saliva.

The base stock contains apples, carrots and more. The

small, floating red dots are called wolfberry. They are medicinal, and are commonly used in soups and teas.

Dingdingxiang is tremendously and justifiably popular for its signature dipping sauce, a flavorful sesame sauce so thick they have to dish it out with an ice cream scoop. You can also choose materials to mix in the sauce, such as spring onion, chili oil, parsley and scallions, and sweetened garlic. The cost is 5-10 yuan per individual serving.

Large plates of freshly-sliced lamb are surprisingly cheap – other options include beef, spinach and sliced winter melon.

Other dishes served in the restaurant include Sliced Pork Shoulder, Bah-Ku-Teh Hotpot Soup, Assorted Mushrooms, Hokkaido Deep Frozen Crab Pincers, Thai Tom Yum Kung Hotpot Soup, Beef Rib with Bone, Cod Fish and Fresh Fish Meat Dumpling.

A freshly-made dark plum drink is a good choice to complement any meal. It is not made from your ordinary supermarket plums.

Dingdingxiang

Where: F1, 8, SOHO Shangdu, Dongdaqiao Road, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 11 pm

Tel: 5900 3137, 5900 3079



List

Chaoyang District Authentic Chaozhou Beef- ball Hot Pot

Where: 11, Nongzhanguan Nanli

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 6419 1567

Weiluyehua Private HotPot

Where: Sanyuanli Community, Sanyuan Dong Bridge

Open: 10 am – 10:30 pm

Tel: 8451 1845

Dongcheng District Taipingshangshang Hong Kong Private Restaurant

Where: Donghuan Plaza, 40

Dongzhong Jie

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 6417 0550

Xiaolin Hot Pot

Where: Building 2, 27 Dongzhimen Wai Dajie

Open: 24 hours

Tel: 6469 8857

Chongqing Hot Pot Workshop

Where: 5-3 Dongzhimen Nei Dajie

Open: 11 am – 4 am next day

Tel: 8406 3666

Xicheng District Guosetianxiang Hot Pot

Where: Zhongyi Plaza, 6 Xizhimen Wai Dajie

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 8831 6198

Haidian District Zhuyuncun Restaurant

Where: 16 Beitaping Lu

Open: 11 am – 11 pm

Tel: 8827 5688

Xuanwu District Nanlaishun Traditional Restaurant

Where: 1-7 Heiyaochang Xili

Open: 10 am – 9 pm

Tel: 8352 3011

Chongwen District Liangtianfu Restaurant

Where: 2A Tiuguan Xi Lu

Open: 10 am – 10:30 pm

Tel: 6712 5077

Ningmengpaopao Mini Yuanyang Hot Pot

Where: 8th Floor, Soshow Market, 40 Chongwenmen Wai Dajie

Open: 10:30 am – 9 pm

Tel: 5167 1215

(By Jackie Zhang)

Continue to Page 17...

...continued from Page 16



Winter fondue for two

By Jackie Zhang

With the flood of foreign hotpots entering China, fondue has come in as a "cheese hotpot." Fondue, common in Switzerland, is now available in Beijing.

If you hear a Swiss gentleman glowing with pride over his storehouse of aged cheese, you can equate his wealth to a local who owns several courtyards. In Switzerland, wealth can be judged by a family's cheese stores. In some regions, cheese can be used instead of money as salary for workers and priests.

Production of cheese is strictly administered by the Swiss government. Each district can produce only one variety of cheese. That is how Swiss cheeses have maintained their traditional flavor and avoided being influenced by industrial production.

Gruyere cheese, Emmentaler cheese and Raclette cheese are three of the most commonly used cheese for cooking fondue in Switzerland.

To make fondue, heat cheese in a pot. When it liquefies, add white spirits and a fruity wine. You can then use a long-handled fork to dip into the liquefied cheese. The bread will be hot and full of cheese fragrance. You can also put vegetables and various fruits into the pot.

Where to eat:

Le Carbernet

Where: Beijing Nuofute Heping Hotel, 3, Jinyu Hutong, Dongcheng District

Open: 11 am - 2pm, 5 pm - 9 pm

Price: 380 yuan

Tel: 65128833 ext 6621

Ice-cream hotpot, a summer dessert in winter

By Gan Tian

This is a great dish for the summer season, but it is also a wonderful wintertime experience. The most famous place to enjoy ice-cream hotpot is Haagen-Dazs. *Beijing Today* has an easy recipe to skirt the store's high prices.

First, prepare a small pot. A candle will work well enough for your hotpot's flame. The ice-cream hotpot can't be made on your stove top or it will destroy the dreamy chocolate and ice cream taste.

One of the most difficult processes is melting the chocolate. Put enough chocolate bars in a bowl and then put the bowl in water. Heat the water. After the choco-

late bars melt, add some milk. Too little milk will make the chocolate thick and too much makes it thin. It will take some skill - and maybe trial and error - to find the balance.

After finishing this step, you can start to enjoy your hotpot. Put the bowl containing liquid chocolate over the candle, and then add some fruits. Oranges, watermelons, apples and pineapples are all good choices, but isn't this an "ice-cream hotpot?" Put in some ice-cream sticks or balls from street stands.

The only downside is, cleaning the bowl of molten chocolate.



Fire and ice: warm your tummy

By Gan Tian

Putting ice cubes in a hot pot may seem like a strange idea, but it can be done. In this recipe, *Beijing Today* will teach you how to make a hotpot to burn and freeze your insides.

First, prepare many ice cubes. Cut the meat into small balls and freeze them for about half an hour. You can use lamb, beef and pork. Lamb tastes the best. Next, get the pot ready. Place the meat-balls into the pot with some garlic and chili peppers, then add some ice cubes. The amount of meatballs and ice cubes should be about the same.

Add water to the pot and start the fire. Now you can enjoy the ice cube hotpot. Make sure the water is boiled. Before the ice cubes melt, put the mutton and beef slices inside the pot for about half a minute. After they turn brown, take them out.

The cubes add no flavor, but make the meat taste fresher. Store some ice cubes in the bowl. When you remove the meat from the hotpot, dip them into the bowl to chill for an icy and fiery experience.

Use leftover ice cubes to chill your beer or Coca Cola.



Curry and hotpot combine for a tropical taste

By Jackie Zhang

If you love Thai food, you must be familiar with curry. The spice of Thai curry combined with anything can easily arouse your appetite. Winter is a perfect time to try curry hotpot to warm yourself and satisfy your cravings.

Fish heads, meat, seafood, vegetables, chicken, beef and bean threads can all be added to curry hotpot, and absorb the flavor quickly.

Here is a recipe

Ingredients:

Onions, potatoes, garlic, cabbage, beef, shrimp, carrots, ginger powder, wine, curry powder, bay leaves, coconut juice, salt and chicken stock.

How to cook:

1. Slice up onions. Cut potatoes into small blocks. Cut up garlic and slice up the cabbage.

2. Saute the onion slices, garlic, ginger and curry powder in hot oil. Then, add the chicken stock and potato. Add half the curry powder.

3. When the potato softens, add the beef and other materials, and the remaining curry powder to bring out its fragrance.

How to make dipping sauce:

Combine mashed garlic, peanut butter, XO sauce, fermented tofu and shallot slices to achieve the desired taste.

You can add corn, tomato, green peppers, preserved eggs and bean sprouts to the pot if desired.

Tips

Adding meat first is important when enjoying curry hot pot. It can keep the curry more fragrant than if you start with vegetables.

If you like a thick taste, you can put mixed curry powder in the pot, for example two or three kinds of curry powder mixed together. Save some of the powder mix to add later.

Where to eat:

Pink Loft

Where: 6, Sanlitun Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am - 1 am the next day

Tel: 6506 8811

Starbucks Christmas Blend Rings in the Season at Starbucks

The tradition continues at Starbucks this Christmas season with the return of Starbucks Christmas Blend, Starbucks most anticipated seasonal coffee.

The unique and subtle taste of Starbucks Christmas Blend comes from rare, aged Indonesian beans (aged for three to five years) that yield the blend's hallmark flavor and deep spicy

notes that go so well with the spicy, nuttiness of Christmas foods and treats. Part of Starbucks Christmas tradition for more than two decades, the arrival of limited edition

Also, Starbucks much anticipated Christmas beverages are back to bring comfort and joy to all this Christmas season. For a limited time, festive favorites,

including rich Toffee Nut Latte, spicy, sweet Gingerbread Latte, return to brighten the Christmas season.

Starbucks Toffee Nut Latte is a rich and buttery beverage of sweet toffee and the warm flavors of toasted nuts, blended to perfection with smooth espresso and velvety steamed milk. This festive beverage

is topped with whipped cream and toffee flavored sprinkles for a handcrafted touch.

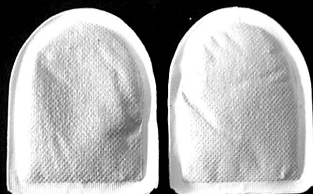
Starbucks Gingerbread Latte captures the flavor and aroma of a freshly baked gingerbread cookie. Swirled with espresso and steamed milk, this signature handcrafted beverage has a unique flavor profile that truly evokes the spirit of Christmas.



Staying warm in style

By Gan Tian

Winter rushes in without much warning. Those who do not want to end up wearing a lot of clothes there is an alternative. If you have the following products, you will certainly stand out in the crowd without being frozen!



Warmer Pad

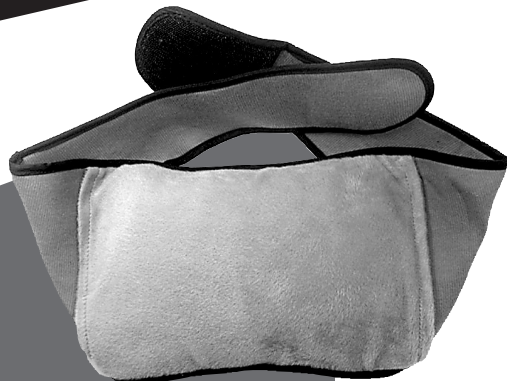
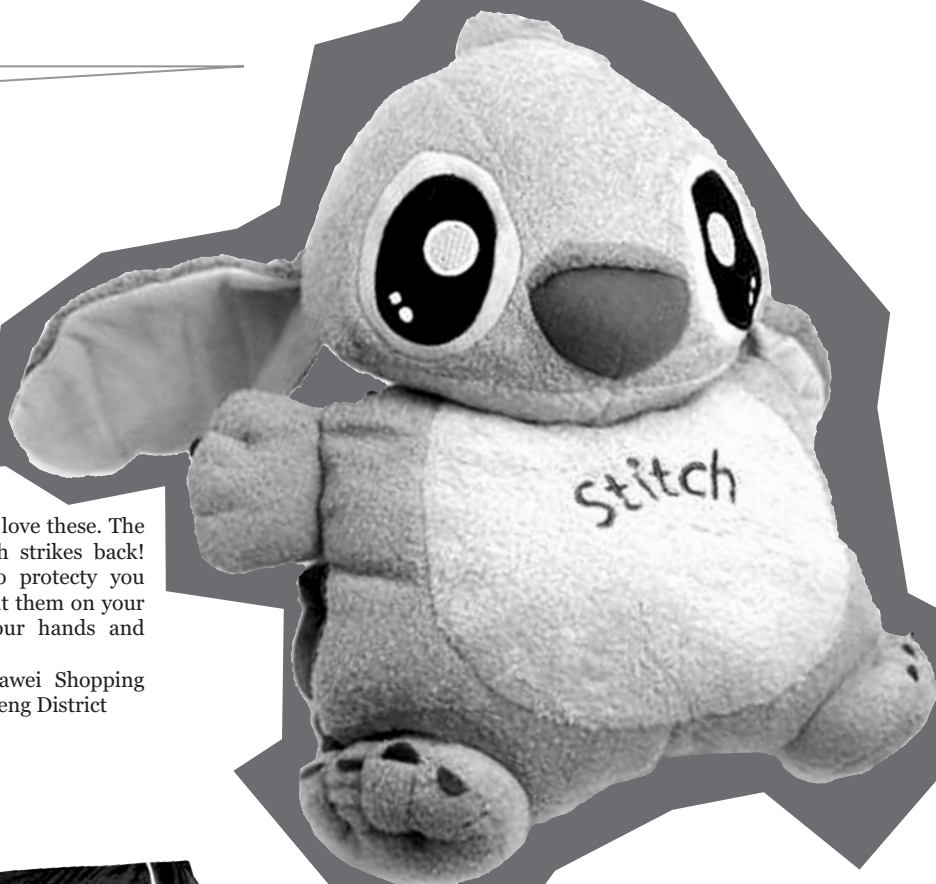
Have you seen those girls still wearing short skirts parading in the streets during winter and showing off their bare legs? Do not be fooled. They are using "warmer pads." Sticking these to your skin is painful, but you can put a pair under your shoes. There are different sizes to choose from, and they will keep you warm for about 10 to 12 hours. Bare legs in the winter need them.

Available: F2, 77 Street, Xidan, Xicheng District
Price: about 10 yuan per pair

Stitch warmer

Disney fans will love these. The blue monster Stitch strikes back! Now he is here to protect you from Jack Frost. Put them on your sleeves to keep your hands and wrists warm.

Where: F5, Huawei Shopping Center, Xidan, Xicheng District
Price: 25 yuan



Waist warmer belt

Many Chinese people believe that if you keep your waist warm in winter, you will ward off freezing temperatures. Many waist belts are designed in unattractive styles and unappealing colors. The brown-colored ones with black trim are very trendy, and most importantly, the velvet in the middle of the belt will keep your waist toasty.

Available: taobao.com
Price: 21 yuan



Cycling trousers

Quality clothes and trousers designed especially for cyclists make it possible to cycle even on the coldest days. They have a special material on the inside to battle strong, chilly winds and keep you warm. "Traveler" brand trousers come in trendy designs and styles. The two white stripes down the side add a splash of brightness to the dull winter.

Available: 15A, Tiayuguan Xi Lu, Chongwen District
Price: 228 yuan



Fruit warmer

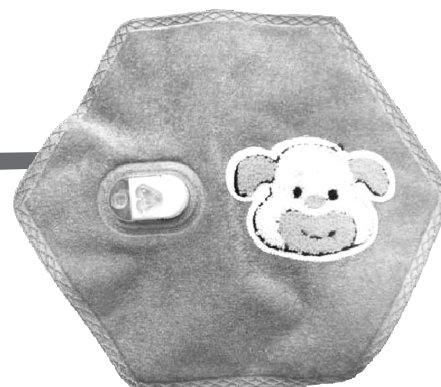
Apples, pumpkins and potatoes as hand heaters? It's true. Most people eat apples but they can be used to warm your hands! Still I think most will not be able to resist the temptation to eat their delicious heater!

Available: taobao.com
Price: 6.2 yuan

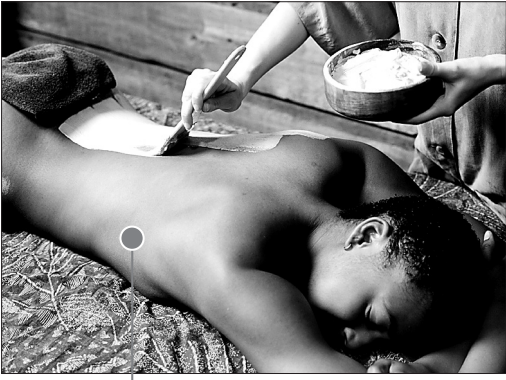
Pig-patterned warmer

When you see the little pig emblem, it could mean a warmer winter for you. You needn't fill it with water to create heat but there is a special liquid inside it. When you plug it in, it heats up. It seems our little pig is very clever! That'll do, pig. That'll do.

Available: F5, Huawei Shopping Center, Xidan, Xicheng District
Price: 20 yuan



Winter skincare for Beijing living



By Han Manman

Chapped hands, a dry face, peeling lips and a red nose: the harsh elements do little to beautify our bodies during winter, especially for those living in cold, dry Beijing. Remember that your skin – from face to feet – needs extra help and protection from the elements.

Beautiful body

Your body needs extra attention at this time of year if you want to avoid unsightly, scaly skin.

The skin on the body is naturally drier than the skin on the face, she said. If you don't have a problem with skin allergies, look for the heaviest cream or lotion you can find to re-hydrate your skin. "It's the ideal time to run a body temperature bath and indulge in an exotic oils or milk."

Because winter can cause dry skin, using a scrub will help to smooth and soften it. If the skin is extremely dry, use the scrub daily for a couple of days. After that, it will only be necessary to use it once or twice a week. There are many body scrubs on the market at every price, scent and with every ingredient. When choosing a salt scrub, remember that the salt can irritate the skin, especially if there is a breakage such as cracks, cuts or abrasions from shaving.

Body lotion is good when one suffers from dry skin. But it will only provide maximum benefits if the dry skin is exfoliated beforehand with a body scrub.

Facial Moisturizer

Because the dry heat and harsh winds of winter strip the skin of essential moisture, it is important to look for facial moisturizers containing enriching ingredients or vitamins such as vitamin E and amino acids. Stay away from acids and other peeling agents as they further strip the skin.

The lips and eyes are the two areas that dehydrate fastest during the wintertime.

It seems our lips take most of the punishment when it comes to winter weather. The best way to prevent dry, chapped lips is to exfoliate and moisturize. Many products are available to exfoliate the lips, but there are also two simple at-home methods. One is to use an old clean toothbrush and gently massage the lips. The other is to take a small amount of Vaseline and massage the lips with a dry, soft washcloth. Vaseline can also be applied afterwards as a balm.

An eye mask is a necessity as a winter eye moisturizer. However, skincare expert Lili Wang said eye masks are not easily applied to the eyes and then taken away ten minutes later. Thoroughly cleaning the eyes before using the eye mask is very important. You also need to have your eyes fomented. Wang said it's better to use a hot towel on the eye first and then apply the cold eye mask. "It's a way to accelerate the ocular circulation." The skincare expert also suggested the best period to do the eye mask is after a shower or before you go to sleep. One thing you need to remember is that an eye cream needs to be used after the eye mask. Wang said by doing so, the skin around the eyes will be moisturized better. "Without the eye cream, when you take off the eye mask, you may feel the skin around the eyes is very tight, and wrinkles may be produced more easily."

Hand-some

Hands are often the first beauty casualty when temperatures plummet. It is worse if you do a lot of housework or your work requires you to come in contact with water or chemicals.

"Our hands, nails and cuticles can become dry and chapped very easily in the winter," said Wang.

"To avoid damage to hands, it's best to apply a thick layer of moisturiser twice a day, especially after washing your hands. It's also important to take care of nails and cuticles – our cuticles are essential to healthy nails and can become dry and cracked in winter," she said.

Feet First

We're approaching a season where our feet can really take a pounding – extra dance floor manoeuvres and Christmas shopping sprees can make feet super-sore and dry. Not pretty if you're planning on wearing slinky sling-back shoes over the party season!

"Regularly scrub with a pumice stone to expose the soft skin underneath, then moisturize with an intensive hydrating foot cream," Wang said.

Other tips

1 Use a humidifier: Because the air inside your home tends to become very dry in the winter, it is important to use a humidifier to help keep your nasal passages from drying out and your skin from becoming dry, cracked and itchy.

2 Moisturize frequently: If your skin isn't prone to break-outs, switch to an oil-based moisturizer in the winter. The more oil a moisturizer contains, the more moisture will be retained. Look for products with the word "ointment" on the label – they contain the most oil with approximately 80 percent oil.

3 Protect your skin from sun damage: Although you are usually bundled up from head-to-toe in the winter, it is important to use sunscreen on areas of your body that are still exposed – your face being the most important. Choose a moisturizing sunscreen with a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of 15 or higher.

4 Dress in layers: Being bundled up in the winter can cause overheating – even if it's cold outside. Overheating and sweating often leads to itching. If you wear layers, you can remove clothing as needed to prevent getting too warm. Choose loose-fitting cotton fabrics for the most comfort.

5 Examine your skin-care regiment: Try not to use products like Retin-A or Renova without also using a high-SPF sunscreen. These products make your skin more susceptible to a sunburn. If you have sensitive skin, refrain from using sloughing products such as alpha-hydroxy acids, which have a

tendency to aggravate dry, irritated skin.

6 Shed wet clothes immediately: If you've been out sledding or skiing, be sure to remove your wet clothes and shoes immediately once indoors. Wet clothing and shoes can irritate the skin and cause eczema.

7 Don't take long, hot showers: Although the thought of a long, hot shower sounds great, it can suck all the moisture out of your skin. Instead, take a short, warm shower, and use a towel to pat your skin dry. Use a good moisturizer while your skin is still damp. Use a super-emollient lotion for your hands, heels or any other place on your body where the skin is extremely dry or cracked.

8 See a dermatologist: If you develop severely dry or itchy skin or eczema, visit a dermatologist.

He or she can prescribe a mild cream or other treatment to moisturize your skin.

CFP Photos



Travel on the wings of John Lennon

John Lennon, the spirit of The Beatles, was gunned down December 8, 1980. The sound of his music defined a generation, and rings true to this day. Follow the music to Lennon's birthplace and trace the beginning of a legend.

Childhood home of John Lennon, Liverpool

John Lennon lived at Mendips with his Aunt Mimi and Uncle George from 1945 to 1963, where he spent his childhood, youth and formative Beatle years.

Residents still reminiscence about life with the young Lennon and have a unique insight into his life and times with photographs, documents and other memorabilia.

"Mendips" was built in 1933 as a three-bedroom semi-detached house near the corner of Menlove Avenue and Vale Road in the Liverpool suburb of Woolton.

Visitors are shown in through the back door to the kitchen. Most of Lennon's friends and family

would have entered the house this way.

This is where his Aunt Mimi would cook him his favorite meal: eggs and chips washed down with a cup of tea. She proudly hung a framed copy of John's poem, "A house where there is love."

The kitchen leads to the Morning Room, the heart of the house, where Lennon would eat his meals and Mimi would do repairs at her Singer sewing machine. Visitors can see a similar sewing machine, and an example of the radio the family would have listened to. Young Lennon would sit in the lounge, writing poetry

and song lyrics.

Visitors will not want to miss Lennon's bedroom. When rock 'n' roll hit Britain in the mid 1950s, his bedroom had posters of Elvis, Rita Hayworth and Brigitte Bardot on the walls and ceiling.

Here he would listen to the latest American rock 'n' roll songs himself and with his friend Paul McCartney. Visitors can see his bedroom and listen to the music that inspired him.

Where: 251 Menlove Avenue, Woolton, Liverpool, England
Getting there: Take a minibus from central Liverpool or Speke Hall.



Mendips was the beginning of Lennon's musical life.

Following his footprints, Durness



He revisited Durness with his family to share childhood memories.

The journey from Liverpool to Durness, a remote township in the north-western Highlands of Scotland, on the rough roads of half a century ago, would have been a two-day epic. It was a trip Lennon made five times in his teens. The town has honored the musician with the John Lennon Northern Lights Festival, which takes place in the village at the end of September.

For Lennon, as with everyone, holidays provided an escape from the tyranny of the everyday. His destination was the north-westernmost mainland community in the kingdom: Durness, population 350.

It is inviting to imagine what the teenager from Liverpool did here. Next time you listen to a Beatles tune, imagine the young Lennon contemplating

the fury of the natural world. This is the landscape that is said to have inspired the song "In My Life."

After his final visit, he returned painfully to Liverpool, then rapidly to global stardom by way of the Cavern Club, Hamburg and Shea Stadium in New York.

When the Beatles were falling apart in 1969, Lennon and Yoko Ono returned to Durness so that he could share tales of his youth with his wife and his young son, Julian.

Plenty of people have washed up in Durness since then. If you want to run away from drudgery or heartbreak, then this geographically most remote town in the UK is for you.

There is no hype in the village's slogan: "A Quiet and Interesting Corner of Britain."

Tranquil Durness offers an annual festival in the name of Lennon. So, between the folk-rock performances, poetry recitals and art exhibitions, festival-goers should seek out the shrine to John Lennon.

Where: the northwestern Highlands of Scotland

Getting there: Make your way to Britain's northern most city, Inverness. The only bus departs Inverness bus station at 8:50 am daily except Sundays.

Continued on page 21...



...continued from page 20



Lennon and The Beatles started a music revolution at the club.

The Cavern Club, Liverpool

This year the Cavern Club in Liverpool is celebrating its 50th anniversary, "The Most Famous Club In The World," which features key artists who have performed there: the Beatles, Rolling Stones, Stevie Wonder, Queen, Arctic Monkeys.

The most amazing fact about the Cavern is that it ever opened. True, the health and safety regulations were nothing like today's, but even by the standards of 1957, it was an anachronism. It was a sweat-drenched club with no ventilation and just one entrance. There were no facilities for the disabled and, laden with amplifiers and drums, even fit musicians had trouble negotiating the club's 18 steep and slippery steps.

But for those who descended the narrow steps into the basement, it was the center of the universe and of a music revolution.

The Beatles first played on March 21, 1961. It was the start of the revolution. People flocked to the Cavern, but they came for rock instead of jazz. The Beatles went on to perform nearly 300 times at the Cavern, their final performance was August 3, 1963.

The assassination of John Lennon in 1980 generated a mammoth interest in The Beatles, and Liverpool became a major attraction. A complex of shops and offices, Cavern Walks, was built, and in the basement, architect David Backhouse recreated the Cavern with similar dimensions to the original club and many of the original bricks.

Where: 10 Mathew Street, Liverpool, England

Getting there: Take a minibus from central Liverpool or Speke Hall.

The Oak tree John planted at the Coventry Cathedral



The couple planted two acorns in 1968.

Coventry Cathedral, a symbol for peace and reconciliation, is a must-see for any visitor and a fond landmark for locals in the city, especially Lennon fans.

It was the "Acorn Event" on June 15, 1968 that John and Yoko first showed the message of "Love & Peace" in public appearances.

The couple planted two acorns in the ground outside the cathedral: a symbol of love between Lennon, born in England, and Ono, born in Japan.

Considering Lennon's hopes that everybody would understand their feelings when looking at a big oak tree in 50 years, a white bench was placed as a spot to contemplate the growth of the acorns.

Pay a visit to check out how the oak tree has grown in the past half century, or try to re-experience the spirit of peace and love. Whatever you do, don't miss the cathedral.

You don't need to know the history of the building to feel its importance – the contrast of the ruined cathedral alongside the opulent new one creates a striking atmosphere.

Many visitors enjoy the architecture and are surprised by the quantity and quality of art works inside the cathedral. The stained glass and tapestries are major eye-catchers.

The baptistery window, designed by John Piper, is a powerful stained glass art work, made up of 195 dazzling and colorful panels.

Above the main altar is an awe-inspiring tapestry of Christ the King. The rich greens and golds shine across the cathedral floor as the face of Christ bears down on visitors.

Where: Priory Street, Coventry, West Midlands, CV1 5AB, England

Getting there: Take a minibus from the central city. Get off at Coventry station.



The site of Lennon's murder.



His final resting place.

The Dakota Building and Strawberry Fields, New York

The Dakota Building owes much of its fame to Lennon.

The seven-storied building located on the northwest corner of 72nd Street and Central Park West was built in the late 1800's as part of a series of buildings facing Central Park.

It was the place John called home for the latter part of his life. It was also the place where he ceased to live.

On December 8, 1980 Mark David Chapman, a crazed fan, killed John "Ono" Lennon. As Lennon and Ono returned after a recording session, the gunman approached them and shot Lennon on the sidewalk in front of the building.

The building is just opposite Central Park, where Lennon is buried in Strawberry Fields.

It is a small garden in Central Park dedicated in memory of John. The entrance to the memorial is located directly across the street (Central Park West) from the building.

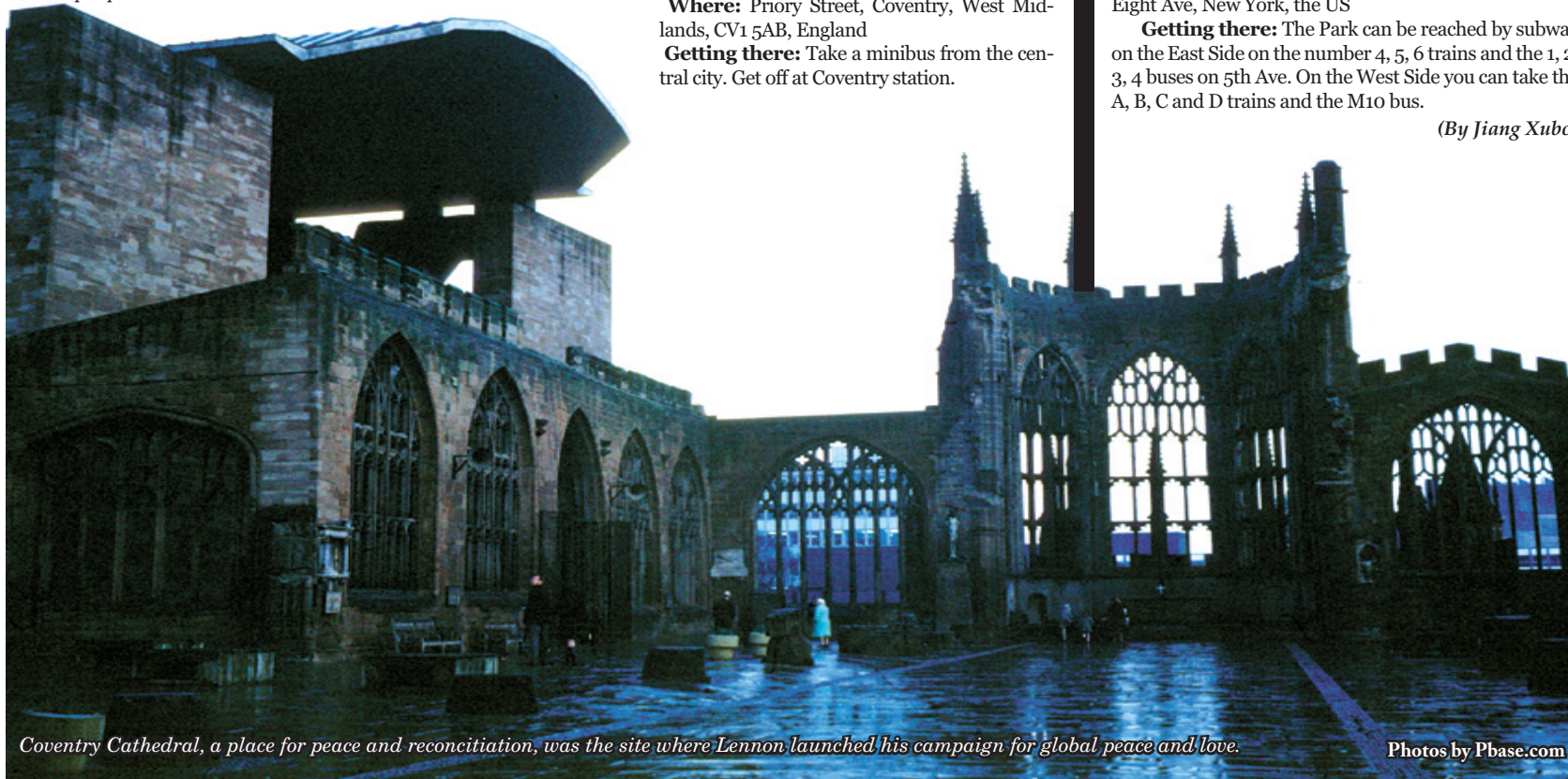
It is a triangular shaped piece of land, whose main focal point is a beautiful circular mosaic of inlaid stones sent in from countries all over the world. In the center of the mosaic is John's simple plea to the world: imagine.

The mosaic was adorned with flowers, artwork, fruit, candles and words of love at his memorial. Despite the somber occasion, the mood at the memorial was quite festive.

Where: Central Park is situated in Manhattan between the 59th and 110th street and between Fifth and Eight Ave, New York, the US

Getting there: The Park can be reached by subway on the East Side on the number 4, 5, 6 trains and the 1, 2, 3, 4 buses on 5th Ave. On the West Side you can take the A, B, C and D trains and the M10 bus.

(By Jiang Xubo)



Coventry Cathedral, a place for peace and reconciliation, was the site where Lennon launched his campaign for global peace and love.

Photos by Pbase.com



Heroes

(Episode 1, Season 1, 2006)

Synopsis:

Mohinder Suresh, a professor from Madras India, leaves his job and travels to New York City to find out what happened to his geneticist father. He meets Peter Petrelli, a hospice nurse who dreams he can fly and Nathan Petrelli, Peter's older, non-believing brother who is running for Congress. Later, more people with superpowers appear. Finally, Isaac Mendez, a painter who has the ability to see the future when he takes drugs, uses his power to explain everything, but Hiro Nakamura stirs up everything, because he believes he has the ability to break the space and time continuum.



Movie of the Week

By Gan Tian

After watching so many super hero movies, audiences are growing tired of their indestructible abilities. However, the TV series "Heroes" gives a different spin on humans with super powers: they are eager to have an ordinary life but are forced to carry the responsibility and burden of being heroes. The TV series makes the audience wonder. What can ordinary people do to become a super hero.

Scene 1: New York, Charles' bedroom – day

Simone: I'm sorry. Did I scare you?

Peter: No. No, I just, uh, I keep having these amazing dreams every time I close my eyes, and ... never mind, um ... he likes me to read him the stock page ⁽¹⁾.

Simone: Has he been conscious ⁽²⁾ at all?

Peter: No. Been a week now. I think he's close. A couple more days, maybe.

Simone: You know, I don't know what he'd do without you. You have a real gift.

Peter: Just doing my job.

Simone: No. You're like a son to him.

Peter: Well, then, that would make us like brother and sister. Might be a little awkward if I ever wanted to ask you out. I'm sorry. That was, uh, that was inappropriate ⁽³⁾.

Simone: No, it's sweet. It's ... I'm dating somebody, and—

Peter: Yeah, no, really. It's ... okay. (He waits a moment) I need to change his IV.

Simone: I'm sorry. No. Of course.

Scene 2: In the street – day

Nirand: Driving a taxi in New York City is a very dangerous job. The wrong fare ⁽⁴⁾, the wrong time. We may never know what really happened.

Mohinder: No, I spoke to him two days ago. He was convinced ⁽⁵⁾ someone was following him, trying to steal his research. He died because of his theories.

Nirand: That's crazy.

Mohinder: Is it?

Nirand: The man left his family – discredited ⁽⁶⁾ his career to chase wild theories halfway around the world!

Nirand: Where are you going?

Mohinder: To his apartment, to get his papers, his research. He was this close to finding the first of "them" – his patient zero.

Mohinder: He tracked ⁽⁷⁾ him to Queens, New York.

Nirand: Mohinder, listen to me. (Mohinder stops and turns around to listen) Your father was my colleague and my friend – a respected professor, a brilliant geneticist ⁽⁸⁾. But he had clearly lost touch with reality.

Mohinder: I followed in his footsteps. My thesis is based on his research!

Nirand: Yes, you always wanted his approval!

Mohinder: And now you're telling me that it was all for nothing.

Nirand: I'm telling you to let go.

Mohinder: I need to know why he died. I need to know that it wasn't all for nothing. (quietly) And then I need to finish what he started.

Scene 3: In the Campaign headquarters – day

Nathan: Mr Linderman, I'm gonna have to call you back in five minutes, okay? Thank you. (to Peter) I'm late – I've got a fundraiser ⁽⁹⁾ and a drinks meeting.

Peter: It happened two

more times. Sometimes I'm falling. Sometimes I'm flying. Sometimes you're in them.

Nathan: I don't have time for this now.

Peter: They're not just dreams, Nathan.

Nathan: Hold this.

Peter: I thought they'd go away, but they're not. This morning, when I got out of bed, my foot hovered ⁽¹⁰⁾ before it hit the ground. Hovered for a split second. Like I was – like I was floating. I'm telling you, buddy, I think I can fly.

Nathan: Tell you what, you think you can fly, why don't you jump off the Brooklyn Bridge? See what happens.

Peter: Maybe I ought to start with something a little lower first. It's like learning to walk.

Nathan: You're serious?

Peter: Oh, I'm serious.

Nathan: You need to snap out of it ⁽¹¹⁾, Peter. See a doctor. Get some drugs. But do not pull a Roger Clinton on me, man. I'm eight points down in the polls.

Peter: This isn't about you, all right? Something is happening to me, and I have this feeling that you're the only person that's gonna understand this.

Nathan: Why the hell would I understand that you think you can fly?

Peter: Because you're my brother.

Nathan: Mom, I can't talk – What? I'll be there in ten minutes.

Peter: What'd she do now?

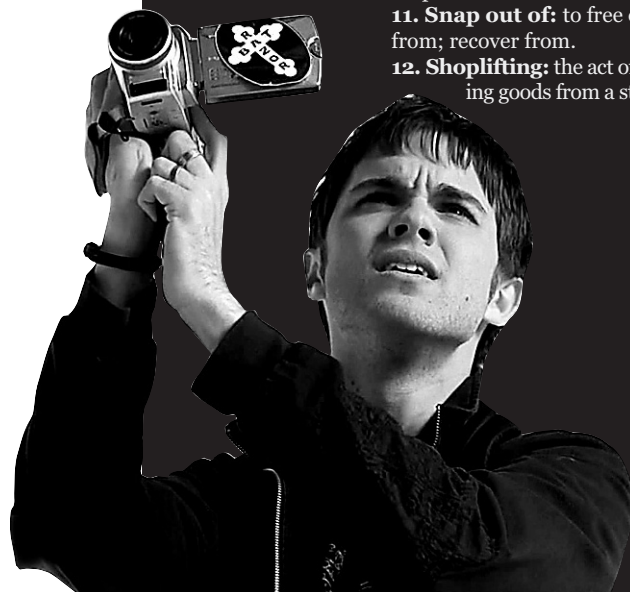
Nathan: She got arrested.

Peter: Arrested for what?

Nathan: Shoplifting ⁽¹²⁾.

Vocabulary

- 1. Stock page:** stock means money lent to the government or to a business company at a fixed interest. Here "stock page" means the financial information in the newspaper.
- 2. Conscious:** aware of one's own existence, sensations, thoughts and surroundings.
- 3. Inappropriate:** not suitable for a particular occasion.
- 4. Fare:** the price of transport on a bus, train, airplane, or other vehicle.
- 5. Be convinced:** to be made to believe something is happening.
- 6. Discredit:** to damage one's reputation, disgrace them, cause them to be doubted or distrusted by others.
- 7. Track:** follow someone secretly.
- 8. Geneticist:** a biologist who specializes in genetics.
- 9. Fundraiser:** a person who solicits contributions or pledges, or a gathering held for such solicitation.
- 10. Hover:** to hang fluttering or suspended in the air.
- 11. Snap out of:** to free oneself from; recover from.
- 12. Shoplifting:** the act of stealing goods from a store.



Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

Social butterflies part of the insect at parties

By Jiang Xubo

My first college ball was held on New Year's Eve at the end of the first semester. Actually, the event was quite dull in the first half hour. Though all of us had attended ballroom dance courses for several months and learned the steps well, we were just too shy to walk to the center of the dance floor. Worse, it was an English ball, and the cat got our tongues every time we tried to speak.

The door opened as the song ended. Julie, our class monitor appeared and she looked gorgeous in her scarlet dress.

"Great! Just beautiful!" Julie entered the hall, "Let's give her a big hand!"

The advisor was pleasantly surprised. He held out his hand and asked, "May I, dear Julie?"

The boys stood up, applauding and whistling. The girls blushed and stared at Julie with jealousy.

Julie smiled and walked to the dance floor, "My pleasure."

The music started to play. It was a waltz. Julie and the advisor took to the floor. Julie started to spin with her skirt swirling, like a scarlet flower in full blossom. Her eyes sparkled with joy. Her pearl earrings shone in the dim light.

Several boys stood up and walked over to the girls, holding out their hands. More and more girls hit the dance floor. But it was a bit too late. Julie was quickly crowned Queen of the Ball, with boys falling over each other trying to get a chance to dance with her.

I did not try my luck, but somehow another sweet girl accepted my offer. She happened

to be Julie's longtime friend.

"Julie dances quite well," I said to the girl while we were dancing.

The girl gave Julie a glance and said, "Of course she does. She's been a social flower since high school."

"What?" I was puzzled. But soon I understood her mean-

ing, "You mean, she's sort of a social butterfly?"

The girl blushed and said, a little disturbed by my comment, "Whatever. She just could not help attracting boys."

Accept it or not, some people are just born to be the center of attention at social gatherings. They are more amusing, more

charming, more eloquent, and so more popular at parties.

I sort of shared my partner's resentment. Though I was not a loner, I was certainly not a social butterfly either.

"Cheer up and have fun, girl," I smiled and held her hand tighter, "At least you are not a wallflower."



This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs please take a picture and send it to gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.



By Derrick Sobodash

If *Beijing Today* readers find garbage strewn about the streets on their next great urban adventure, they should check nearby for one of these cans.

How can Beijingers be expected to put trash where it goes when there are no trash bins? Sure, there are tons of recycle bins to collect used bottles, papers and more, but what is one supposed to do with that leftover half a *baozi*? Onto the street it goes!

That might be because there are no garbage cans in town. There are only recycle bins and "Unreducible" bins.

"Unreducible" sounds like somewhere to store prime numbers or fractions that have been canceled and factored as far as possible.

This sign is simply mis-written. The Chinese text, "*bu ke huishou wu*," or quite literally, "cannot-be-recycled stuff," is perfectly clear.

The question is, how was this mistake made? Of several dictionaries checked, none listed "reducible" as a translation of "*huishou*." The closest was "reclaim," which while wrong, is still closer to the intended meaning.

In the context of trash and trash management, we only commonly use "reduce" in reference to composting or reducing overall waste output. If these bins are actually public compost piles, then someone needs to notify the sanitation bureau.

These bins are found world over next to companion "Recyclable" bins, except normally, they are called "Non-recyclable." You put your non-recyclable items, like expired goldfish and lost teeth, in the non-recyclable bin. Soda bottles go in the one next to it.

When you want someone to use something correctly, take the time to label it correctly.

Local professor: Zhu Shida

1. It is two-hours away.

When "two hours" is used as a predicate, there should be no hyphen between the two words. It should be: "It is two hours away." If you wish to use it as an adjective, then, you will have to add a hyphen to read, "It will be a two-hour drive." Don't confuse the two.

2. Sentenced to four-year in prison

The error here mirrors the previous case. You may say: "Sentenced to four years in prison," or, "to a four-year prison term."

3. US \$ 47,000 dollars

\$ indicates dollars. However, there are many varieties of dollars in the world like US dollars or HK dollars. So, when you use the "\$" symbol only, it could cause confusion. However, as the sign itself already indicates dollars, it would not be wrong to add dollars after the figure. You might just as well say, "47,000 US dollars."

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch it for each week.

Native Speaker: Joe Edwards

1. It is two-hours away

It is a grammatical predicament if you use a hyphen when "two hours" is used as a predicate as in the above example. Drop it to read correctly, "It is two hours away." Of course, if you use two hours in the adjective form, you need the hyphen. For example, "We had a two-hour wait at the airport." Use your hyphens wisely.

2. Sentenced to four-year in prison

Again, here's our little hyphenated friend showing up where he is not wanted. There are two ways you can adjust this sentence to correct it. You can say, "Sentenced to four years in prison," or "Sentenced to a four-year prison term." Great! The Birdman of Alcatraz would have been proud of you.

3. US \$ 47,000 dollars

This word and symbol structure here looks a little cumbersome in print, and is slightly redundant using the dollar symbol and the word "dollar" as well. It can be simplified. The symbol, "\$," indicates dollars, but they come in many colors. Just using the symbol could be confusing to the reader. A quick and effective fix: "47,000 US dollars." Easy to read and easy to understand.

PLAN YOUR HOLIDAY PARTY WITH US TODAY!
SPECIAL GROUP "N" COMPANY RATES!

WIN A CRUISE!

BEIJING'S SPORTS PUB
 OPEN
 4
 HOURS
 BEERS-GRUB-SAT TV-MUSIC

CHRISTMAS
2008
NEW YEAR
CHINESE NEW YEAR

CHAO YANG PARK EAST GUANHU GARDEN TOWER S1
 59283045 / 46 / 47 / 13511019135 / 13901087774

Royal Caribbean INTERNATIONAL
"EVERY MONTH"

Friday, December 7



ation concept and language of two artists: Hung Tunglu and Li Hui. Viewers will experience and understand the eternal return of media evolution shown by these two artists.

Where: Tang Contemporary Art Center, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
 When: Tue-Sun 10:30 am – 5:30 pm, until December 15
 Admission: Free
 Tel: 6436 3658

Lost & Found – Contemporary Art Exhibition



Where: Soka Art Center, B103 Sky & Sea Business Plaza, 107 Dongsi Bei Dajie, Dongcheng
 When: Daily 10 am – 9 pm, until December 28
 Admission: Free
 Tel: 8401 2377, 8401 5810

Movie

Vida y Color
 Where: Beijing Cervantes Institution, A 1 Gongti Nan Lu, Chaoyang
 When: 7 pm
 Admission: Free
 Tel: 5879 9666

Saturday, December 8

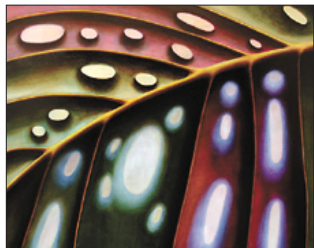
Exhibition Plateau Soul – Chen Xiaoxiong Contemporary Oil Painting Exhibition

Where: Qin Gallery, Enjoy Paradise, Huaweili 1-1E (North of Beijing Curio City), Chaoyang
 When: Tue-Sun 9:30 am – 6 pm, until December 31
 Admission: Free
 Tel: 8779 0461, 8779 0458

Peter Pollag Solo Exhibition



Exhibition Eternal Bamboo



Where: Beijing Wan Fung Art Gallery, the Imperial Archives, 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng
 When: Mon-Fri 9 am – 5 pm, Sat-Sun 10 am – 5 pm, until

Exhibition Uncanny Perceptions – New Works by Shi Guorui



Where: Chinese Contemporary, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
 When: 11:30 am – 6 pm, until February 28
 Admission: Free
 Tel: 8456 2421

A masterful colorist, Pollag juxtaposes symbols, lines, curves and planes to accent and create tensions within each of his paintings.

Where: Art Scene Beijing, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
 When: Tue-Sun 10 am – 6 pm, until December 8
 Admission: Free

Spin



The exhibition gives full exposure to the artistic cre-

Group Exhibition of Xue Jun, Zhao Weidong, Yang Shufeng

Where: Dr Gallery, C-9002 Brewery Art Complex, Beiyuan Dajie, Andingmen Wai, Chaoyang
 When: Tue-Sun 10 am – 6 pm, until January 30
 Admission: Free

Tel: 6431 6962

Tel: 5202 3878

Music The Friendly

Where: 2 Kolegas Bar, inside the drive-in movie theater park, 21 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang
 When: 10 pm
 Admission: Free
 Tel: 8196 4820

Sunday, December 9

December 14
 Admission: Free
 Tel: 6523 3320

Beyond the Image – HU Youben Solo Exhibition



Hu Youben's paintings look like three dimensional land-

scapes. The folded paper resembles mountains, rivers and natural shapes. "In my paintings I try to express the bond with nature that I feel when I go to the mountains or look at the clouds, a kind of echo between the landscape and myself."

Where: Yan Club Arts Center, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
 When: Daily 11 am – 6 pm, until February 20
 Admission: Free
 Tel: 8457 3506

Looking between the Lines – Tang Kaizhi Solo Exhibition

Where: Onemoon Contem-

porary Art, Ditan Park, Andingmen Wai, Dongcheng
 When: Tue-Sun 10 am – 6 pm, until January 31
 Admission: Free
 Tel: 6427 7748

Outdoor Great Wall Mutianyu & Ming Tombs

Where: Meet at the Chinese Culture Club (Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang) for bus transportation.
 When: 9 am – 6:30 pm, December 13
 Cost: 350 yuan
 Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

Stage in December

Dance

Ballet Jewels by Kirov

Who: Kirov
 Where: National Grand Theater Opera theater, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm,

January 3-4

Admission: 280-1,280 yuan

Swan Lake by Russia

Ballet Troupe

Who: Russia Ballet Troupe
 Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm, January

31 - February 1

Admission: 50-1,000 yuan

Drama

Musical Cats

Who: The Really Useful Group's International Touring of Andrew Lloyd Webber's
 Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng

When: 7:30 pm,

January 19-27

Admission: 80-1,680 yuan

Concert

Soprano Te Kanawa

Solo Concert

Who: Te Kanawa
 Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, January 2

Admission: 180-1,680 yuan

Lang Lang Piano

Solo Concert

Who: Lang Lang
 Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm,

January 3-4

Admission: 180-2,008 yuan

Berlin Philharmonic

Brass Quintet

Who: Berlin Philharmonic Brass Quintet
 Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm,

January 7-8

Admission: 50-580 yuan

World Famous

Tenor Jose Carreras

Solo Concert

Who: Jose Carreras
 Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, January 18

Admission: 380-1,880 yuan

China Philharmonic

Orchestra 2007-2008

Musical Festival

Who: China Philharmonic Orchestra
 Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30 pm, January 18

Admission: 80-880 yuan

Vitas 2008 Beijing Concert

Who: Vitas
 Where: Capital Gymnasium, 5 Baishiqiao, Xi Zhimen, Haidian
 When: January 24
 Admission: 280-1,880 yuan

(By Li Jing)